



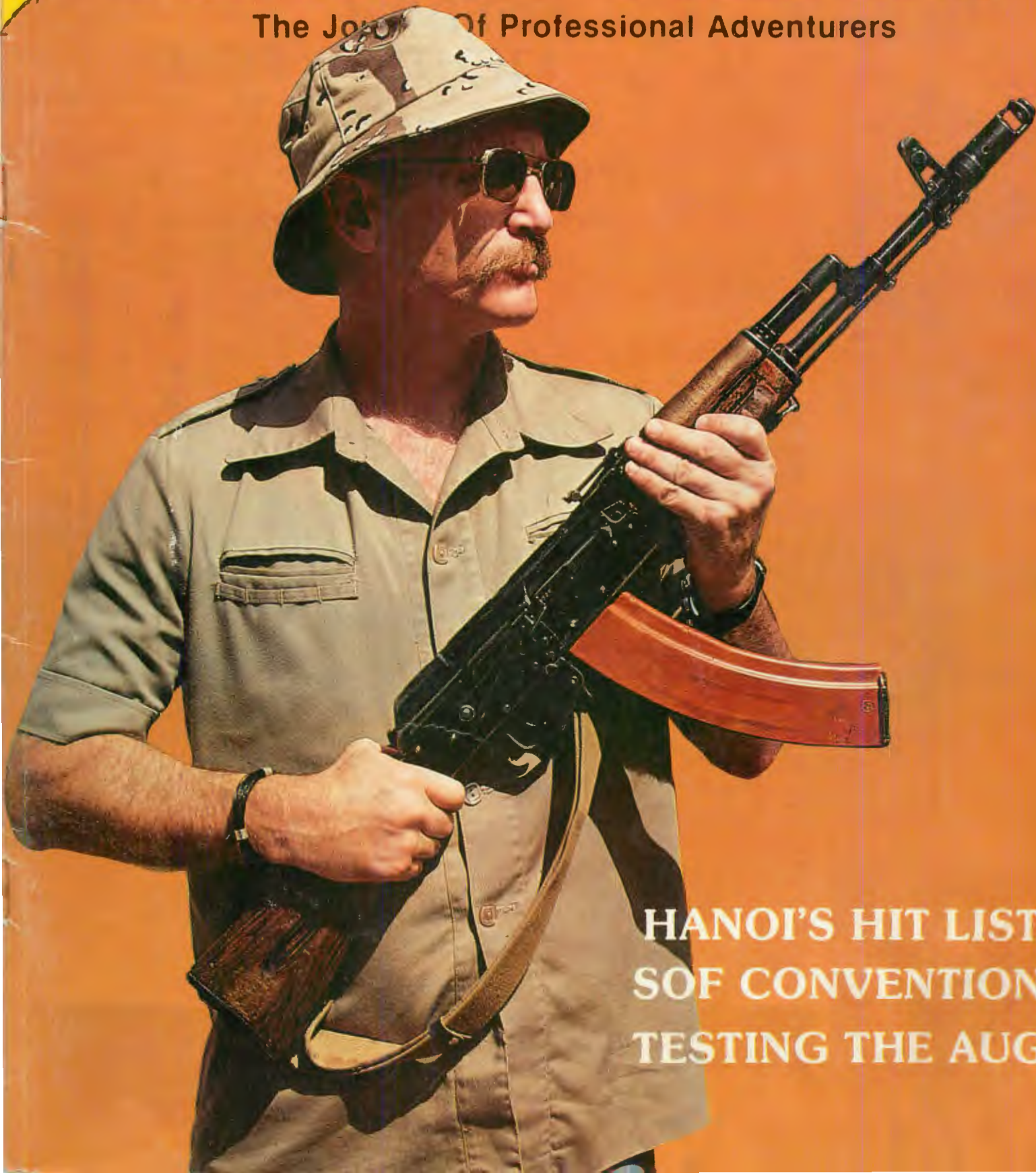
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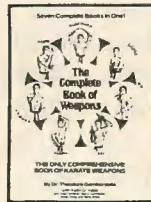
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IN MEMORIAM MEL TAPPAN

ON 2 November 1980, at his home in Rogue River, Ore., Mel Tappan died suddenly of congestive heart failure. He was 47 years of age, and his passing was a great shock to all who knew him.

An only child, Tappan was afflicted with a spinal injury while still young, but he never quit or complained. Instead, he devoted himself to mastering a wide range of subjects, which gave him the ability to converse intelligently about many unusual topics, such as medieval languages. Upon obtaining two Ph.D.s at Stanford University, he became a teacher there. In 1958, he met and married Nancy Mack.

During the 1960s and into the mid-1970s, Tappan worked in the investment-securities area, initially at a brokerage house. Later, he founded both a mutual fund and an insurance company, in addition to becoming a director of many firms.

In 1976, he was one of the first to envision the major problems this country was, and is, to face, with the steadily weakening defense posture and the triple assault of excessive taxation, inflation and overregulation of people and businesses by various branches of government. Recognizing that substantial special-interest groups would work for a continuation of these policies, even to the point of the destruction of the economy and/or the destruction or surrender of the United States, he became the first of the now well-known "survivalists" — people who plan for a future wherein government collapses or is broken down.

In 1976, Tappan compiled the first edition of *Survival Guns*, which is now in its sixth printing, and in December of that year he became the survival editor of *Guns & Ammo*, a position he held for 3½ years. Tappan joined *Soldier of Fortune* in August of 1980, completing two columns before his death.

To those who had the good fortune to know him, he was un-faillingly considerate despite his personal problems. This consideration, combined with his force of intellect and near-**photographic** memory, made association with him a rare pleasure.

As the best-known and best-regarded survivalist, Tappan broke new ground for others to follow. It is questionable whether any other individual has the same combination of experience and grasp of detail that made Tappan the leader in the field of survival planning. It is for this reason that this country is the poorer for his passing, and why his premature death is a loss to us all.

—Eugene A. Barron



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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

FEBRUARY/1981

VOL. 6, NO. 2

COVER: *Soldier of Fortune* Publisher Robert K. Brown holds recently captured Russian AK-74. Brown had opportunity to examine and fire this weapon, which fires the new Russian 5.45mm round, during trip to Afghanistan's border area last August. Next month SOF hopes to publish results of sophisticated tests scheduled to be conducted in United States. Photo: Paul James

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

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BULLETIN BOARD

by Bob Poos



READERS BEWARE SILENCER AD . . .

After page 91 of this issue had gone to press, SOF learned that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms considers the silencers advertised by General Import & Export Ltd. to be un-importable into the United States.

When asked by our office if a SOF reader could come into violation of the law by purchasing one of the silencers, Ed Owen of the BATF's Firearms Technology Division in Washington, D.C., said: "Actually, if he tried to import it and it were stopped by customs and they said, 'No, you can't import it' — well, that's the end of it.

"But if it gets into the country and it's in his possession he has a problem.

"They [the silencers] are considered National Firearms Act weapons and the law prohibits the importation of National Firearms Act weapons.

"We've [BATF] sent them [General Import & Export Ltd.] a letter. Basically . . . we are telling them those [the silencers] are considered firearms in the United States and they are NOT importable and suggest that they inform any U.S. purchasers of that fact. Whether they do it or not, we don't have any control over that."

SOF suggests that its readers should check with local, state and federal authorities before contacting General Import & Export Ltd.

MARINES STUDY NEW INFANTRY STRUCTURE . . .

The Commandant of the Marine Corps is studying a proposal to revise the makeup of Marine infantry battalions, the basic combat structure of the Corps.

Presently, Marine infantry battalions are composed of an H&S company, a weapons company equipped with 81mm mortars and Dragons, and three rifle companies.

The proposed new battalion structure would be much more heavily armed.

Total strength would be 47 officers and 869 enlisted men.

The H&S company would have, in addition to the battalion HQ element, a communications platoon, a service platoon and a surveillance and target-acquisition platoon.

There would be a new combined-arms company consisting of a mortar platoon of four 81mm and six 60mm; an anti-armor platoon of 24 Dragon trackers and eight TOW launchers, plus a heavy machine-gun section of eight M2 .50-caliber guns, and a special infantry troop of four officers and 110 enlisted men organized into three rifle platoons.

The battalion would have three rifle companies of six officers and 151 enlisted men each, and a weapons platoon equipped with six M60 7.62 machine guns, three M19 60mm mortars and three Dragon trackers.

Fire teams would contain five Marines and squads 11. Platoons would have one officer and 35 enlisted men.

The special infantry troop is the most unusual feature in the proposed structure and would amount to a lightweight fourth maneuver element that could be employed in a number of roles, including those of a mounted force, combat-outpost duty, command-post security or a reserve force to replace a frontline rifle company.

FRENCH MERCS WANTED . . .

A Washington, D.C. attorney and friend of SOF is trying to contact two French mercenaries. Bernard Fensterwald would like to contact Michael Victor Mertz and Jean Rene Souetre. Also appreciated would be any details of their activity in 1963-64. Fensterwald may be reached by writing Fensterwald and Associates, 2101 L St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

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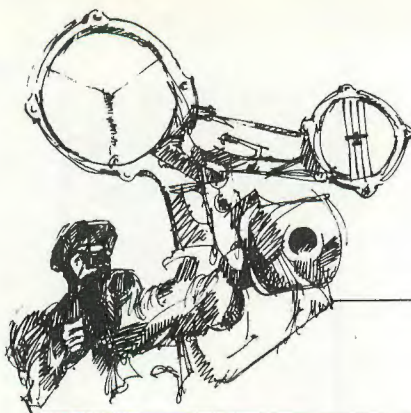
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FLAK

LIVE ON TV ...

Sirs:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Col. Brown again for the invitation to compete in the first annual Soldier of Fortune Combat Shoot. It was an honor to engage in sport with men of superior shooting skill and knowledge. The professionalism displayed in regard to safety and weapons handling was outstanding.

Yesterday, Wednesday, 8 October 1980, I watched the Donahue Show live on WGN in Chicago. It appeared that Col. Brown had total control and the support of the audience and viewers due to his truthful, down-to-earth, common-sense answers and professional appearance. It seems that Donahue failed in his mission to portray *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine as a violent publication and those who read it as bloodthirsty individuals.

As for police officers such as myself who attended and competed, I feel that there was an abundance of knowledge available for use in law-enforcement training, including new techniques of aggression that officers may be on the alert for in reference to their own protection.

Also, I enjoyed watching myself "max" the shotgun slug course with my "870" on nationwide television.

In all my years in law enforcement and as commander of our tactical team, I was never more proud than to be able to represent my department in your match.

You're telling it the way it is, Brown. Keep up the good work.

Thank you,
Sgt. Tony Sacco
Sangamon County Sheriff's Dept.
Springfield, Illinois

Thanks for tooting our horn. It's always nice to receive kudos from law-enforcement officials. Also, the Denver area showed Brown, William M. Brooks and the convention on tape on the Donahue show on Wednesday, 22 October. We suggest you check with local TV stations to see when they plan to air particular taped segments of shows that interest you, since individual show dates may vary from one area of the country to another. —The Eds.

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Sirs:

Kick their ass! Your Afghan Freedom Fighters' Fund is the charity of the decade! Since our whimpering, anemic, communist-sympathizing Democratic administration won't help out our new allies, I guess it is up to me. I regret being able to donate only \$20 from this paycheck, but I am currently preparing to stave off the Red Menace when they try to invade our homeland. My latest .45 Commander ate up the whole check (aside from the third the bureaucracy so gleefully stole). Next check I hope to donate more and make a steady habit of it. Serious. Being 17 and still in high school, I can't yet make the trip myself, so I shall try to help our friends in any way I can.

And to all you Walter Mittys out there — look what a deal you've got going! All our allies ask is some U.S. greenbacks that won't be worth anything in a few years anyway. They ask no sacrifice, no life on the line, only a few hours' pay. And undoubtedly SOF will be there to cover it in pictures. Wouldn't you pay \$20 now and again to see a picture of an Ivan being blasted through the neck? Besides, every Ivan a Freedom Fighter zaps is one less you have to face in the years to come. Get involved!

Fanatically yours,
N.W.

Bellevue, Washington

Thanks for your support. We've already delivered \$2,000 to one major mujahideen group and hope to send more soon. Every dollar collected by SOF's Afghan fund goes directly to the Afghans. No funds are used for salaries or administrative expenses. Send your non-deductible contribution to AFFF (Afghan Freedom Fighters' Fund), P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. —The Eds.

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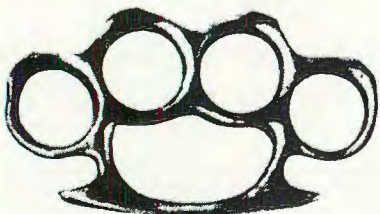
Sirs:

In remonstrance to Bob Poos' commentary on the necessity of a peacetime draft (SOF, December '80), the United States seemed to have done all right without one

Continued on page 76

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FULL AUTO

Modifying The MAC

by Sgt. Gary Paul Johnston



Dodds' M16 stock adaption is rugged and comfortable.

THE popularity of Gordon Ingram's MAC 10 submachine gun has continued to increase since it was introduced in the 1960s. This has been due to the MAC's affordable price and its excellence as a weapon. But, as with any good product, there is always room for improvement. Some of the MAC's features with which I have been less than thrilled are its folding stock, its magazine release and the wipe arrangement in the suppressor.

Although the stock collapses nicely inside the weapon for vehicle and drop use, it is less than ideal in its extended position, being somewhat clumsy and uncomfortable. An alternate extending stock has been available and, of late, fixed wooden stocks have appeared and become popular on subgun courses — and with MAC owners in general. Recently, what may be the best solution of all to the MAC's stock problem has come to my attention.

John Dodds, of Ohio, has designed a sturdy, effective mount to mate the standard MAC sliding bracket with the M16 butt stock. With a minimum of fitting, the butt stock adapts to the MAC as if the two were made for each other. The length is only a fraction of an inch from that of the original stock and can be adjusted. This arrangement provides the most comfortable, rigid stock I have ever used on a MAC 10. Finished in military-type phosphate, the three-piece stock adapter sells for \$20.95 ppd, without the M16 stock.

Dodds has also come up with excellent remedies to the magazine catch and wipe

problems. The hard-to-reach catch is modified to an "assault" configuration, similar to that of the M14 and AK-47 rifles. With it, all one has to do is grasp the magazine and the release tab extending down to the rear. Pressing the tab forward releases the magazine quickly and easily. The chance that this release could accidentally be depressed is unlikely, and nearly impossible when shooting. The "assault" magazine release is \$15 with the old one in trade.

Dodds' third MAC modification lies in his treatment of the suppressor wipe unit. Instead of throwing away a wornout wipe assembly, or having to pry out and restake the retaining ring to change wipes, the assembly is converted so that a new retaining ring unscrews with a spanner wrench or needle-nose pliers in order to replace shot-out wipes. For those many MAC shooters, who like to shoot without wipes for top accuracy and only slightly more noise, the wipes can be quickly removed with this unit. Dodds will convert the wipe assembly for \$12.

Not only should these slick MAC modifications be a boon to MAC owners and police SWAT teams, but Dodds tells me that he is working on an inexpensive method of preventing the MAC suppressor from unscrewing during full-auto fire — I can't wait.

For information, write John Dodds, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 39294, Solon, OH 44139.



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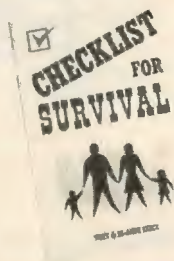


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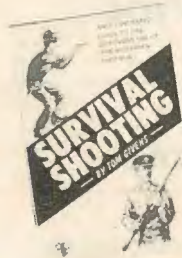
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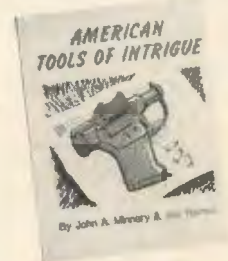


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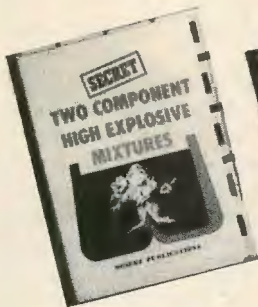
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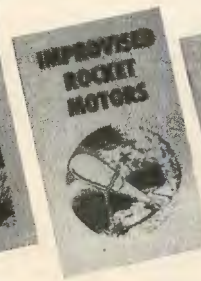
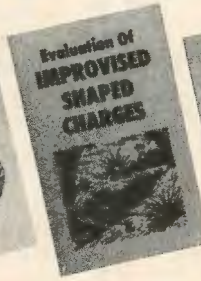
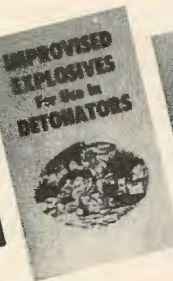
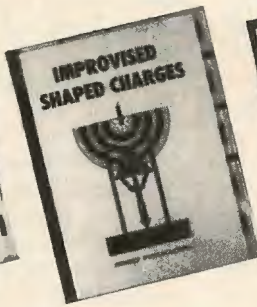
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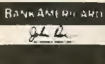

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Avoiding The Late Great Leg Shot

Ken Hackathorn



PRACTICAL pistol shooting has established an excellent safety record over the past years. Considering the stressful nature of these practical shooting exercises, the number of accidental shootings in this sport is surprisingly low. My NRA-shooting-circle friends are always amazed at our successful safety efforts and low accident rate. The reasons are simple.

First and foremost, when one asks a man to perform a fast and potentially dangerous gun-handling phase in a match, he will not require much warning. He is already well aware of the danger and takes extra care. Second, modern guns and equipment used in practical shooting competition are designed with maximum user safety in mind. Finally, and most important, is the need for proper training in the "technique of the pistol." One must be taught proper gun-handling techniques and safety. IPSC has numerous schools open to the public for instruction and training. Anyone who fails to take advantage of these schools or their teaching starts off on the wrong foot.

Now, I do admit that there have been accidents in practical pistol shooting, mainly because many new shooters use less than ideal techniques. The most common accident is what I call "the late great leg shot." Putting a .45 ACP slug in one's leg is most painful, and terribly embarrassing, because it is so stupid.

How do these accidents happen? Let's look at the causes of the leg shot, since it has become a weak point in our safety record. Leg shots are predominantly caused when inserting the pistol back into the holster, although a few drawing accidents have occurred, usually with the front-break holsters, and most frequently with one of the plastic varieties.

Proper training in pistol technique requires one to keep his finger away from the trigger except when finishing the last stages of the firing stroke. Whenever the pistol is not actually being fired, the trigger finger remains out of the trigger guard and straight alongside the pistol frame.

Practice all gun handling with this method. Do not insert the finger into the trigger guard until the piece is to be fired.

This technique becomes critical when moving about with the pistol in hand, both in assault matches and when searching for bad guys in real life.

Many untrained observers argue that this technique is too slow. Remember that during the time one brings the pistol on target, he can move his finger the short distance to the trigger. If one trains constantly, using this safe method of pistol handling, he will do it correctly under stress.

What often happens in leg-shooting incidents is this: After the shooter has finished firing his last round, he re-engages his thumb safety but fails to take his finger off the trigger. As he forcefully shoves the pistol in the holster, the holster lip comes in contact with the finger, which is resting on the trigger. This sudden stop, combined with the mass of the pistol's weight and the force of the arm jamming the weapon back into the holster, causes the thumb to disengage the safety. When this happens, tension on the trigger is already present — and boom!

To prevent this, one must keep his finger out of the trigger guard when drawing or reholstering his sidearm. The secret of this move? Practice, practice, practice.

When choosing a holster, one should look for a design that keeps the muzzle of the weapon pointing away from the body. It is much better to have the shot strike the ground than end up in a leg or foot. In serious competition, one will be disqualified for such an incident — but this is much better than a trip to the hospital.

For everyday practical carry, a holster with an FBI cant may prove ideal, since even if a shot is fired in the leather, the only likely damage will be a crease in one's posterior. A forward-rake holster will place the round in the ground and to the front. A cross-draw, if worn correctly, will place a wild round safely off to the side.

Most people who have shot themselves in the leg can give you practical information on bullet penetration — they will tell

Continued on page 70



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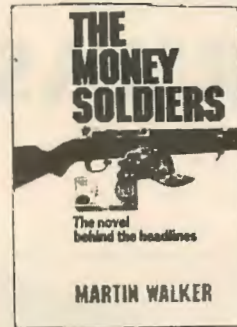
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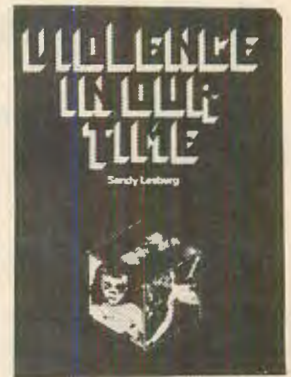


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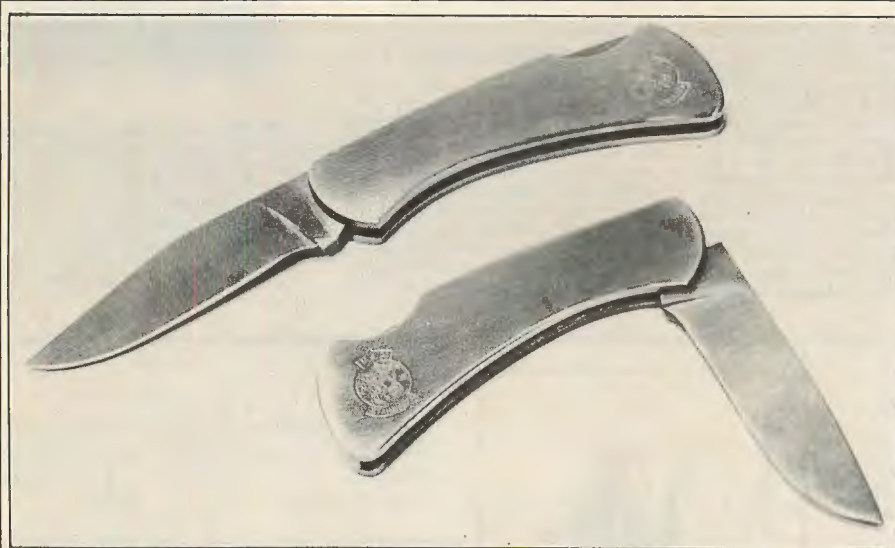
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ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

by Cynthia E.D. Kite



NEW SLENDER BENDER ...

Smith & Wesson has come out with a lock-back knife that may be carried in the pocket without a sheath, but will not inflict unusual wear because it has no sharp edges when folded.

The S&W "Ultra-Thin" is a 2½-ounce

cutter just one quarter of an inch thick and three inches long when closed. Open, its overall length is 5½ inches.

It comes in two blade styles, clip point and drop point. Both are flat ground in 440 stainless steel with stainless-steel handles. Now available in retail stores for the suggested price of \$19.95.



A SIGHT BETTER ...

Wichita Arms, a new division of Wichita Engineering & Supply, Inc., now offers a unique multi-range, quick-change sighting system which can be zeroed in at different ranges. They believe it will have wide appeal for all phases of silhouette pistol and rifle competition and also for hunting rifles.

The new sight, designed by master pistolsmith Ron Power, features four repeatable range settings that can be adjusted and locked, enabling the shooter to bring the sight to the proper setting as he changes distances, by simply turning a serrated wheel (numbered 1-2-3-4) for different ranges.

Incorporating a positive click windage adjustment, the sturdy new sight will retail for \$69.95. For more information contact Wichita Arms, Dept. SOF, 333 Lulu, P.O. Box 11371, Wichita, KS 67211.

THE NEW SUPER Q ...

Underwater Kinetics has introduced the B200 Super "Q-Lite," which it claims is the smallest, high-power, underwater light you can buy. The suggested retail price of \$50 includes flashlight, luminescent ni-cad battery (and a fitted black sleeve for when you don't want it to glow) and an AC charger that will recharge the battery in eight hours. The high-impact plastic light has been tested to 2,000 feet and is small enough to fit in your pocket.

Underwater Kinetics also offers a full line of compatible accessories for the Q-lite. Sounds ideal for the diver, underwater photographer and spelunker, or anyone who needs a dependable bright beam. For more details write them at Dept. SOF, 7052 Convoy Court, San Diego, CA 92111.

Remington 870 (above) and Ruger Mini-14 (below) incorporate Choate options noted below. Photo: C.E.D. Kite



— only slightly scaled down in size and minus the bayonet lug. Machined from solid-bar stock steel with matching blue job, current cost is \$30.

If you're in the market for a para-trooper folding stock for your Mini-14, Choate will mount their top-quality, hand-made stock (with either wood or plastic grip) to your original stock for \$68. Having noticed that the conventional Mini-14 stock is too short, they make the folding portion 1½ inches longer than standard, claiming it's more comfortable for the average man — though standard length is available upon request.

For those of you using 20- or 30-round magazines, Choate has come up with a space-age, black-plastic, ventilated hand guard which helps diminish barrel over-heating. Duplicating the original wood in size and shape, it can extend barrel life and increase accuracy, and is available for \$13.50.

Write for further information to Choate Machine & Tool Co., Dept. SOF, Box 218, Bald Knob, AR 72010.

EDITOR'S NOTE: SOF does not endorse any item reported in Adventure Quartermaster. When possible, an appropriate SOF staffer tests and evaluates products submitted. Sometimes this cannot be done and SOF simply publishes basic factual information about new products that we feel may be of interest to readers.

WELCOME ADDITIONS . . .

Choate Machine & Tool Company offers a quality line of accessories of interest to Remington 870 shotgun and Ruger Mini-14 rifle owners.

Among the offerings for the Remington 870 is a solid blued-steel 8-shot magazine extension kit that may be installed in seconds by the amateur without alteration to the gun. At a cost of \$22, the kit includes extra-long magazine spring, instructions and warranty card. Some options compatible with this kit include a blued-steel sling swivel base clamp for \$4, for additional support where abuse occurs; extra magazine extension springs at \$3 each, for those who leave their gun loaded; and at \$3, a heavy-steel spring follower to replace the more breakable light-plastic type provided with the newer model 870s.

Choate also offers a rugged, custom-made folding stock for the Remington 870 in 12, 16 and 20 gauge. Easily manipulated and easily installed, the stock currently sells for \$68.

With the best webbing money can buy, Choate makes a conventional 54-inch sling, available for \$3, and an extra-long (72 in.) sling for \$4 — for those Remington 370 or Mini-14 owners who prefer to wear their weapon at their side in ready-position.

Among the Choate options available for the Mini-14 is a "look-alike" flash suppressor, which is just like the real thing

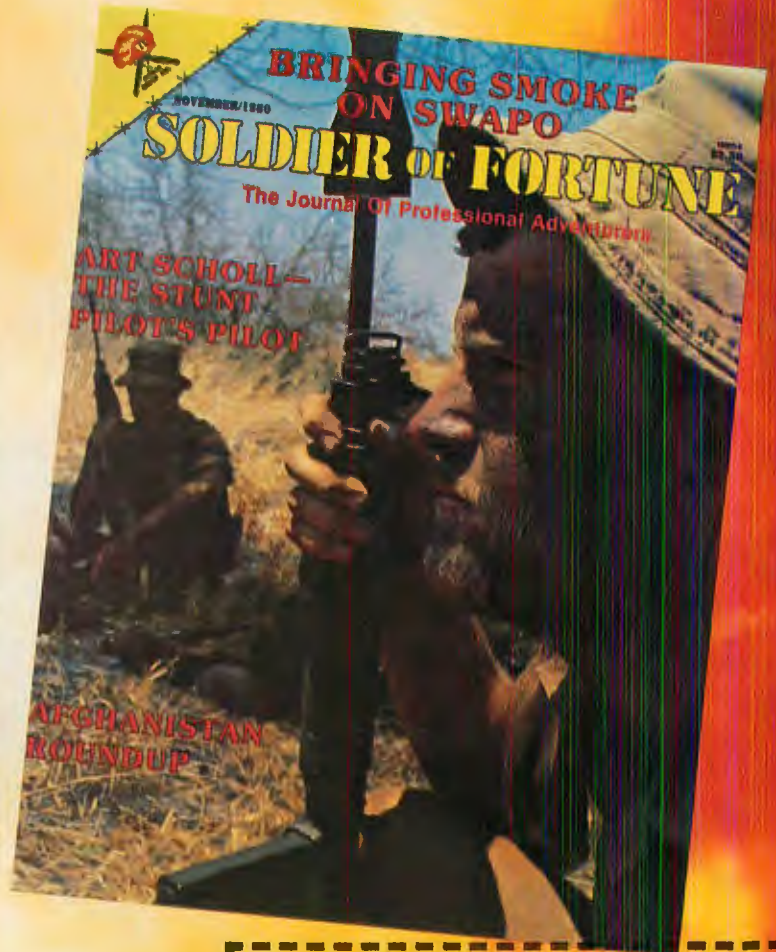
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BLEAK FUTURE. America is already in hot water, but the future looks much, much worse—runaway inflation, price controls,

black markets, and eventually "a MAJOR depression that will make the 1930s look like a Sunday School picnic." After reading Mr. Schneider's book, you will also know:

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- * Why the world is bracing for WAR
- * Why famines and a collapse of the dollar are ahead
- * Why big cities will be centers of bloodshed, food shortages, and massive unemployment

Hans Schneider adds this chilling warning: "Any one of these events could spell disaster to unprepared Americans, physically and financially."

SURVIVAL RETREATS. In his book, Hans has outlined what he has done . . . and what you can do to prepare for—even profit from—these times. Hans, his lovely wife, and their five children live in unspoiled wilderness next to a spring-fed stream, teeming with trout. They produce most of their own food and enjoy a wonderful family life. Is this your dream? By following his helpful advice, you too can wisely select the right place to live and set it up for survival.

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- What essential provisions to store, and how some can be used for barter
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 - Simple inflation/depression-proof investments with a 30–100% yearly increase
 - Jobs least vulnerable to unemployment
 - Foreign lands—A wise move?
 - 2 ways to hide valuables during chaotic times!
 - 5 different ways to produce your own electricity without gasoline!
- . . . and MUCH more.

You will also read about alternate lifestyles, weaponry, and defense tactics; turning a yacht into a "survival retreat"; 6 simple, inexpensive ways to preserve your own food (one using just a needle and string! page 47); and what is even more important for your physical survival than merely storing food (see pages 214 and 248–249)!

. . . And that's just the beginning. Mr. Schneider's book is literally a "goldmine" of valuable "how-to" information. But don't take our word for it, read what others are saying:

- * "Timely . . . a good prescription for those of us who no longer expect any help from the failing institutions of this world and recognize that we must work out our own salvation—physical, mental and spiritual."—John R. Andrews, M.D., Ellijay, GA.
- * "His book is exceptional not only because

it is timely and practical, but because it is based on actual personal experience—it is not a lot of idealistic theorizing or useless philosophy." R. A. Johnson, Survival Editor for *Inflation Survival Letter*.

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GLOBAL SURVIVAL

Mr. Schneider is also the author of another book. His latest, *Flying to be Free* (256 pages), is his personal never-before-told story of his boyhood passion for flying in his communist-occupied homeland, the years he spent on dangerous aviation missions through war-torn Europe and the near-fatal accounts of his travels under survival conditions in almost 100 countries. It is beautifully illustrated with over 110 photos/drawings and a full-color cover. In a special chapter, Hans even tells you how you can save substantially on trips abroad using the same methods he did!

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I WAS THERE

by Robert D. Andrews as told to M.L. Jones

Robert D. Andrews, now a sergeant in the Marshall County (Ind.) Police Department, enlisted in the U.S. Navy in January 1969 and was shipped to Vietnam in June as an engineman on a harbor utility craft (YFU) on the Danang River. These coastal river boats hauled supplies — usually pro-jos (projectiles) and black powder for them — to inland fighting forces. As he tells it:

BECAUSE the Navy was in the process of turning our river boats over to the Army, we got a new Army dude every time one of our guys went stateside. In mid-August '69, we picked up a load of black powder and three new Army privates from a cargo ship in Danang Harbor. Our destination was Tam Ky. We hit bad weather and arrived too late to off-load, so we anchored in the bay. (A boat loaded with black powder isn't welcome near the shoreline after dark.) A VC with a sling-shot could have set off our load, and when those babies went, there usually wasn't even a dog tag left.

Our big concern was sappers, who might get the idea to swim out and plant a charge on the bottom of the boat.

I took over the bridge watch at 2000 hours. No moon, so all there was to do was listen. Since I'd only been in-country for two months, I heard every single sound. I was nervous as hell.

At 2350 I heard something aft, and as I looked down from my 20-foot bridge deck my asshole puckered. There he was — a sapper. He was swimming toward the boat, so I figured he hadn't planted his charge yet. I drew my .45 and took aim. Just as I got him sighted in, he submerged. I sounded the red-alert siren, grabbed a concussion grenade, unwrapped it, pulled the pin and was ready to boil up the bay. **Then he surfaced** again closer to the boat. Not wanting to blow the packing out of our shafts, I shifted the grenade to my left hand, aimed my .45 and got ready to pop his top when he dove again.

I was one second away from dropping the grenade in the bay, when I looked down and **saw** my craftmaster dive off the end of the boat, grab the sapper and start struggling with him in the water. I thought he was the bravest man on earth. To go into the water after a swimmer without even a knife — boy, that was really something.

After a couple of minutes of thrashing around in the water, my craftmaster pulled the swimmer to the edge of the boat. I ran to them, leaned over and screwed my .45 into the swimmer's ear. To my amaze-

ment, he was helped into the boat by the craftmaster — and I discovered he was one of the Army dudes we'd picked up earlier that day. The Army had sent us a private who couldn't swim. When I thought he was going under to attack, he was actually drowning. So there I sat, with my .45 cocked and a pinless grenade in the other hand, not to mention the lumps in my shorts.

Funny thing — those Army dudes never did act friendly after that, and I used to pray that I'd never fall overboard.

IT HAPPENED TO ME

by Major Michael Farrell
as told to M.L. Jones

Maj. Michael Farrell is a career officer in the U.S. Army assigned to the 108th Air Defense Group in West Germany. During the Vietnam war, he spent almost four years as a highlands adviser. We're happy to comply with his request that we donate payment for his story in SOF subscriptions to a VA hospital. As he tells it:

LA TE in the war, while operating south of Ben Het, Kontum Province, I, two noncoms and about 15 strikers were gainfully employed in the collection of Jarai tribesmen from the area's small hamlets, who were then interrogated and resettled — except for those who had communist ties; they were turned over to the province recon unit (PRU), the action arm of the Phung Wong Program, for processing and neutralization and/or termination.

We were headed back toward Ben Het at about 1700 hours with our charges for the night to wait for CH47 transport to Pleiku in the morning. Suddenly, we ran into an enemy force of unknown size between us and the camp. We took several casualties and things began to look real bad.

The unknown force turned out to be several main-force platoons of NVA

regulars. We decided to head for Dak Seang, north of Ben Het. As was normal for this type of operation, I was carrying the radio (PRC-25 with short whip). As we moved out, I found — much to my annoyance — that I could not contact any of our nearby camps, but could get through to Dak Pek. I requested gunships and "red leg" but was told it would take time, which was fast running out for us. The NVA regulars were pushing us hard and the overall situation looked grim.

It was getting dark, we were near exhaustion and our "combat tabs" were eaten. We were able to get about five minutes' lead — mostly by luck — on the enemy. We set up a hasty perimeter, but things could have looked better, since we were low on ammo, tired and had nothing heavier than a thump gun.

I dropped my rucksack and pulled three artillery simulators (my secret) from its bottom. No one knew I had them, since they were light and easily concealed. It began to rain heavily just as the NVA main force came into contact with us again. As they closed in, I threw the artillery simulators — one behind our position, one in front and one to the left.

I knew the trick had worked when one of my sergeants grabbed me by the webbing, wanting to know why I had called artillery in on top of our position. If I could "con" a Special Forces, Ranger and Airborne combat veteran SFC into thinking that "red leg" had been called so dangerously close, then I figured the NVA were also "conned."

With contact broken, we moved out for Dak Seang. I still could not reach either of our camps on the radio, so we spent the night about two clicks from the perimeter and went in the next morning at full light.

The thing to remember is that very few NVA or VC have ever heard an artillery simulator — even a veteran who had lived with them most of his military career was fooled. One might think that the story would end here, but it didn't.

Several months later, I heard this tale retold in the "Valley Club" at the Border Ranger (TM 36) Camp outside of Pleiku City. A number of the REMFs, both officer and NCO, did not believe it. They said they could never be fooled by a simple simulator.

Three nights later, a couple of the field advisers put the tale to the test — it had

Continued on page 80

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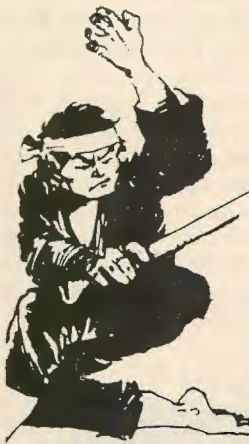
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IN REVIEW



Donald E. McQuinn, author of "Targets," was a Marine intelligence officer in Saigon during the Vietnam war.

TARGETS. By Donald E. McQuinn. New York: MacMillan Publishing Co. 1980. 499 pp. \$12.95. Review by Bob Poos.

SPOOKS in Vietnam did not tend to be a lovable bunch, but some of them — I recall one in particular at Pleiku who shall go unnamed because he's still in that line of work — were good at what they did.

Now, Donald McQuinn, who obviously was one of them, has done for that trade what Jim Webb did for the 'Nam grunts: produced a memorable, honest and beautifully written first novel about them.

McQuinn, who was a Marine intelligence officer in Saigon, set himself a difficult task because counter-intelligence work is not something that is commonly understood, let alone appreciated, by people in more conventional lines of soldiering.

But McQuinn takes the reader into that cloudy, occasionally exciting and dangerous, often incredibly boring world and projects an understanding of and empathy for the men and women involved.

It is 1969 and Maj. Charles Taylor, a Marine line officer with lots of combat time in Korea and Vietnam (and a salty tongue he is unafraid to use on his superiors), finds himself passed over for promotion, nearing his career's end, with one final assignment — Records Research Unit in Saigon.

Taylor knows clearly that this is a spook operation and he cannot understand why

he, a professional, skilled infantryman, has drawn such an assignment for his final tour.

He illustrates this — and perhaps this is why he was passed over for lieutenant colonel — when his would-be CO, Col. Winter, reads him a brief biography and asks for Taylor's comments.

Which are: "Colonel, this is bullshit. You've already got a detailed bio on me and those other assignments. You're running a spook operation. Why try to snow me?"

But for once Taylor misjudged his man. He thinks that answer will immediately disqualify him. But, instead, it tells Winter that this is just the man he is looking for.

Taylor ends up reluctantly accepting the assignment and discovers that his new associates include: a likeable torturer, an able Vietnamese colonel who knows deep down that his country is doomed, but is determined to try to prevent the end as long as he lives, a boyish-looking lieutenant, a karate master who has extended twice and wants to again, a double-agent prostitute and a scruffy array of American and Vietnamese black marketeers. His surroundings are the bars and brothels of Tudu Street and Saigon's murky, dangerous back alleys — and, occasionally, the more familiar boondocks.

There are times when Taylor can strike directly at the enemy, like when he engineers a deal in which the VC ultimately receive a truckload of ammunition.

Only trouble is, the unit's EOD man has placed timing devices in mortar warheads that cause them to detonate at unfortunate times, and has loaded every fourth rifle cartridge with C-4 rather than gunpowder. Imagine Charlie's surprise when he fires that round. (This is undoubtedly a true story from the author's experience. I know specifically of a similar trick pulled successfully in 1966.)

And one of Taylor's colleagues disposes of a pro-VC war correspondent in the neatest way imaginable.

This is also a love story and the author handles it deftly, a tough job for any tale essentially about war.

McQuinn also furnishes a compassionate, perceptive insight into the complicated tragedy of the Vietnam War.

To sum up: I think I have read every major fictional work on Vietnam and a sizable percentage of the non-fiction

books. Only two have been so absorbing that I lost a night's sleep finishing them. *Fields of Fire* was one. This is the other.

Bob Poos, *SOF Executive Editor*, is a former Marine rifleman and was an AP war correspondent in Southeast Asia 1965-68.

FIGHTER ACES OF THE U.S.A. By Raymond F. Toliver and Trevor J. Constable. Fallbrook, California: Aero Publishers, Inc. 1979. 394 pp. \$24.95. Review by Dana K. Drenkowski.

ONCE in a while, a book crosses my desk that I know belongs in my library at first glance. This was such a book. I am familiar with previous volumes by the Toliver and Constable team, including *Fighter Aces*, *Horrido!*, *Fighter Aces of the Luftwaffe* and *The Blond Knight of Germany*. The research done by both authors in their preceding books showed tireless attention to detail. Their writing style makes accounts of aerial warfare good reading in a subject that can quickly bore one in another author's work. Once one begins to read the individual accounts of air battles as told by Toliver and Constable, he finds it hard to put the book down. **Fighter Aces of the U.S.A.** is no exception.



The body of the book covers every war known in which American pilots made ace status (shooting down five or more enemy airplanes), including lists and accounts of those pilots who fought for the French and British air forces in World War I prior to the entry of the United States into that conflict. It continues through accounts of the last two American aces: the Navy's Randy Cunningham and USAF's Steve Ritchie, both of the Vietnam war. The book includes some surprises, such as a section covering the actions of 17 American pilots who fought in the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s. Several made ace, and one, Albert "Ajax" Baumler, scored eight kills against German and Nationalist pilots, then joined the USAAF several years later and shot down five Japanese aircraft during WWII

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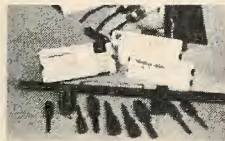
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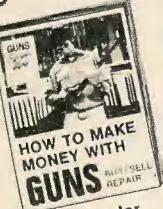
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to become America's first pilot to make ace in two wars.

Other surprises include a complete listing of the top aces of other nations in World Wars I and II and the Spanish Civil War, as well as lists of Americans who achieved ace status fighting for the Chinese, as "mercenaries" in the famed Flying Tigers. The authors have also covered what little is known to U.S. intelligence sources of the mysterious "Col. Tomb" (or Toon) who was said to have shot down at least 13 American jets over North Vietnam during the Vietnam war. He was Randy Cunningham's fifth and final kill, making Cunningham the first American ace of the Vietnam war.

The book is chock full of photos — more than one per page — of aerial combat, of the more notable fighter pilots and of their planes.

Several sections relate accounts of German and Japanese fighter aces, comparing their experiences, training and effectiveness with those of their American foes, whose methods are sometimes found wanting when compared to other nations' techniques. This comes as no surprise to those of us fighter pilots in the USAF who watched the "cost-effective" analysts delete air-to-air training for USAF fighter pilots during the Vietnam war on the grounds that the few accidents involved made preparation of men and equipment too costly.

When the USAF sent fighter planes back to Hanoi to fight North Vietnam in 1972-73, our losses were deemed unacceptable and air-to-air training was introduced into the curriculum. Nevertheless, the bureaucrat who advised deletion of the air-to-air training program, and who may ultimately have cost up to 100 pilots' lives and untold numbers of airplanes, was never disciplined nor fired. Even now, the USAF is fighting to keep its realistic training in Nevada from going under to the budget cutters' axes. They claim that losses in accidents do not outweigh benefits gained if we should go to war again in the near future. Some people never learn. Unfortunately, they are not the ones who pay for their mistakes with their lives.

All readers interested in aerial warfare or in military affairs would be well-advised to get **Fighter Aces of the U.S.A.** It very definitely fills the role of the reference book on American fighter aces. Its lists of 1,416 American aces from all known wars in which Yanks fought will resolve many an argument.

Dana Drenkowski, SOF aviation editor, is also a knowledgeable military historian, whose research into past air wars has produced an SOF article on American flyers in Poland's Kosciuszko Squadron. He's also working on an article on the Lafayette Escadrille of World War I. His interests and knowledge make him a natural reviewer for books on aviation history, as recent SOF In Review sections show.

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TEARS OF GLORY

The Climactic Battle of the French Resistance
Michael Pearson



TEARS OF GLORY. The Heroes of Vercors, 1944: The Climactic Battle of the French Resistance. By Michael Pearson. Maps by Rafael Palacios. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Company, 1979. \$10.95. ISBN: 0-385-11446-X. 22x15cm. 337 pp. Bibliography. Index. 26 photos. 6 maps. Hardcover. Review by William Brooks.

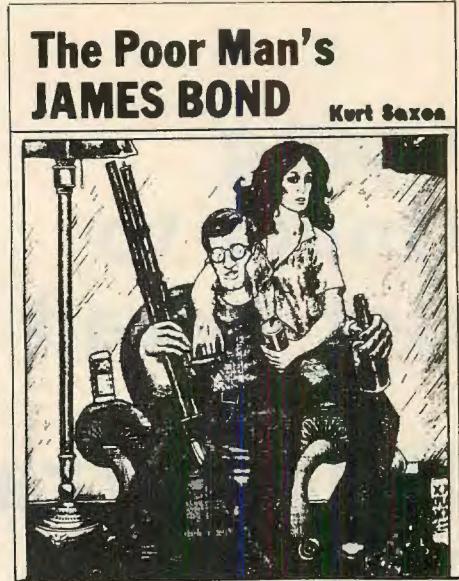
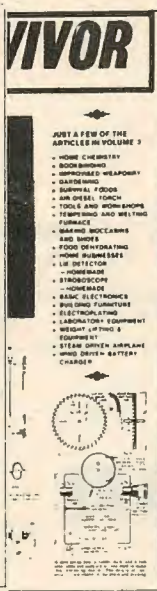
A recognized British author has directed his journalistic talents to write a vivid, colorful recreation of the events which resulted in the destruction of 4,000 poorly armed French partisans during the summer of 1944. Pearson relies on a vast number of primary and secondary sources which he has analyzed and translated. The author concludes that the Free French government in Algiers and Gen. de Gaulle were responsible for this tragedy.

In response to orders announcing the opening of Operation Montagnards, a force of 4,000 partisans was assembled on an isolated plateau near Grenoble in June 1944. Their mission was to disrupt German communications and supply lines to prevent the Germans from moving reinforcements to the southern invasion area where Operation Anvil was to take place. These 4,000 men were to operate out of their Vercors plateau fortress, construct an airstrip and prepare for the arrival of Free French airborne forces.

The plateau was to become an impregnable Free French "colony" in the rear of the German Wehrmacht. The plan was simple, militarily sound and very dangerous. For the mobilization of the Vercors — the blocking of the access roads and passes, the calling-up of men waiting in towns on the plain — was very different from the execution of traditional resistance operations, such as swooping attacks on railyards in trucks.

There could be no disappearing from the Vercors plateau. Once it was mobiliz-

Continued on page 66



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Going Under to Get Ahead

Subterranean Route Recon

by Capt. Adolf Carlson

AUTHOR'S NOTE: The following article, reprinted with permission from Infantry magazine, is based on data developed by the West German Bundeswehr. The techniques described here are being considered for inclusion in the Infantry School's MOUT doctrinal publications.

TO an uninitiated observer, a typical European city is a maze of streets and buildings. Even if he did not have much experience, he could probably pick out those streets and buildings that gave the greatest military advantage. But unless he specifically looked for it, he would probably completely ignore another dimension of that city — the subterranean.

In the larger European cities, the subterranean features make up an environment all their own; they include sunken garages, underground passages, subway lines, utility tunnels, sewers and storm drains. Large numbers of troops can be moved through many of them. Even in the small European towns, troops can move through sewers and storm drains when the conditions are right to strike at an enemy's rear areas.

Tunnel Recon

Thus, a detailed knowledge of the nature and location of underground urban facilities is of potentially great value both to the urban attacker and defender. This article describes the techniques that a platoon can use to reconnoiter and secure an underground route. In this case, the platoon will check out a tunnel under a street. It is high and wide enough to per-

26 SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

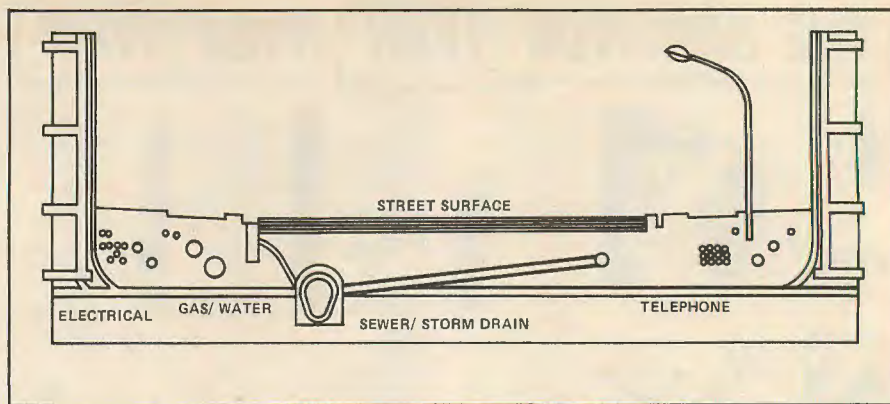


Figure 1

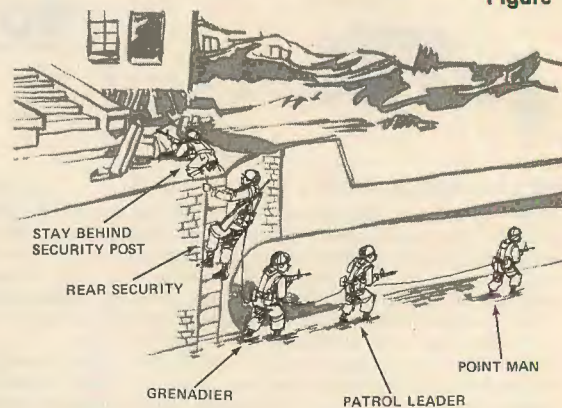


Figure 2

mit one man to pass through it at a time. Such tunnels are commonly found in Europe, where they are often used as sewers and storm drains (Figure 1). (Larger features, of course, would require some modification to the basic techniques described here, but the fundamentals would remain the same.)

This type of local reconnaissance mission should be given to a fire team-sized element. There are enough soldiers in a fire team to gather the required data, but not so many that they will get in each other's way. The size of the patrol should be increased only in the case of extremely large subterranean features.

Securing the Rear

The patrol leader should organize his patrol with one rifleman tasked with maintaining security to the front (the point man), and another tasked with maintaining security to the rear. The patrol leader should move directly behind the point man, and should navigate and record the collected data. The grenadier should follow the patrol leader, while one rifleman should be left as a security post at the point of entry—he becomes responsible for detecting any enemy who might approach the patrol's rear (Figure 2).

The patrol leader should carry a map, a compass, a street plan and a notebook in which he has written those items of information he has been told to gather. The grenadier should carry the tools necessary to open manhole covers, and if the patrol is to move more than 200 to 300 meters, or

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Capt. Adolf Carlson, a 1969 graduate of the United States Military Academy, is presently assigned to the Infantry School's Directorate of Doctrine and Literature. He has served as a company commander both in Vietnam and in Europe, and has seen service with G3 Operations, The Berlin Brigade. Capt. Carlson formerly served with the Infantry School's Directorate of Combat Developments.

if the platoon leader directs, the grenadier should also carry a sound-powered telephone (TA-1) and a wire dispenser (XM-306A) for communications. (Radios are usually unreliable in this kind of environment.)

All of the soldiers should carry protective masks, flashlights, gloves and chalk for marking features along the route. In addition, the patrol should be equipped with a 120-foot safety rope to which each man is tied. To improve their footing, the members of the patrol should wrap chicken wire or pieces of window screen around their boots.

Chemical Defense

Chemical defense should be of constant concern to the members of the team. Enemy CW agents might be encountered in dense concentrations, and there is almost no chance that a lucky wind will disperse them. The new M8 automatic

FEBRUARY/81



Figure 3



Figure 4

chemical-agent alarm system, carried by the point man, can provide instantaneous warning of the presence of CW agents. At the first indication that harmful gases are present, the patrol should mask.

In addition to enemy CW agents, noxious gases that emanate from decomposing sewage may also pose a threat. These gases will not be detected by the M8 alarm, and they cannot be completely filtered by the protective mask. If the gases are present, though, the soldiers might become nauseated or dizzy, so the patrol leader should be constantly alert to those signs. He should know at all times the shortest route to the surface and fresh air.

Once the patrol has been properly organized and equipped, it should then move to the entrance of the tunnel, usually at a manhole. When the manhole cover has been removed, the patrol should wait 15 minutes before it enters the tunnel to allow any gases to dissipate. The point man should be the first man into the tunnel, and he should check to determine whether the air is safe to breathe and how

much the narrowness of the tunnel might restrict movement. He should also check the depth and current of any water that might be in the tunnel. He should remain in the tunnel for at least 10 minutes before the rest of the patrol goes in. If he becomes ill or gets into trouble during that time, he can signal by pulling on the safety rope.

Safety Rope

As the patrol moves through the tunnel, all of its members should stay tied on the safety rope so that they can be retrieved from danger. The point man should move about 10 meters in front of the patrol leader. Other patrol members should maintain 5-meter intervals. If, however, the water in the tunnel is flowing faster than 2.5 meters per second, or if the sewer contains many slippery obstacles, these intervals should be increased so that if one man slips he will not upset the others. The rear security man should mark the route with chalk so that, if necessary, other troops can find the patrol (Figure 3).

The patrol leader should note the azimuth and pace count of each turn he takes in the tunnel. When the point man sees a manhole to the surface, he should open it and determine its location. All of this data should be recorded on the patrol leader's map or sketch. Recognition signals should be used to keep friendly troops from accidentally shooting the point man as he appears at the various manholes.

Final Tunnel Use

Once the patrol has returned and made its report, the platoon leader must decide what to do about the tunnel. In the offense, he may use it to provide a covered route to move behind the enemy's defense. In the defense, the tunnel may offer him a covered passage between his positions. In either case, the patrol members can act as guides.

If the tunnel is to be blocked, the platoon should place concertina wire, early-warning devices and antipersonnel mines in it and establish a two-man post at its entrance to provide security against any enemy trying to approach the platoon's position. This post should be prepared on a platform built as high as possible so that it will not have to be abandoned if the water rises (Figure 4), and it should be equipped with some means of command-detonated illumination. While listening for the enemy, the soldiers manning this position should not wear earplugs. Before they use their weapons, however, they should put their earplugs in their ears since the confined space will dangerously amplify the sounds of firing. The soldiers at this post should mask at the first sign of a chemical threat.

Conclusion

In describing the fighting between the Russians and the Germans in Stalingrad, Paul Carell makes this statement:

"Here the tunnels carrying the industrial sewage emerged on the surface — now empty underground galleries leading into the rear of the German front. Soviet assault parties would creep through them. Cautiously they would lift a *manhole* cover and get a machine gun into position. Suddenly their bursts of fire would sweep the rear of the advancing German formations, mowing down cookhouse parties and supply columns. A moment later the manhole covers would drop back into place and the Soviet assault parties would have vanished."

This kind of familiarity with the subterranean environment can be gained only through well-planned, aggressive reconnaissance and can make the difference between success and failure in urban combat.



SELLERS OF DECEIT

Overseas Employment Scams

by George V. Chiles

IF you are considering foreign employment you have probably accepted the idea that many overseas contracts carry a certain amount of risk, ranging from dysentery to getting shot. It is up to the individual to decide how much risk is acceptable, and at what point basic intelligence will override the desire for money and travel. Few people, for instance, would accept a contract requiring them to HALO alone into a hostile country, beat that country's ruler to death with a stick and then exfiltrate.

But each year many people try to buck equally high odds, risking their money rather than their lives, and they don't even get to leave the country while doing it. They fall victim to the swarms of parasites that feed off the desire of many of us to find a contract that will provide a chance to save money and give a change of scene.

Before getting into the specifics of how these scams work, I would like to say something about confidence games in general. Hardly any of them make any sense in the objective light of scientific examination. This is why none of us believe that we will ever fall for one, and why many who read this will wonder how anyone else could. But the laws of science do not apply to scams, because a confidence game is not a science but an art. For any art to succeed it must reflect the most basic and powerful hopes, fears and beliefs of a segment of mankind. For example: *Star Wars* and Worldwide Boiler Room Mining Stocks, Ltd., both show the world as people wish it to be, rather than as it is.

1. Mail Scams

Basically, there are three kinds of scams for a person looking for work overseas. The first is composed of alleged contractors that operate by mail, taking money for visas, processing documentation fees and the like. They provide nothing but fanciful "information sheets" that the

dupe can get up at 3:00 a.m. to glower at for months afterward.

The second are "placement services" that take fees or earnest money in exchange for a few minutes of hokum. They then move on, like wolves following the migration route of reindeer. The third type are "resume mills" that deliver exactly the services described in their contract. These services are as helpful toward finding overseas work as a talisman toward the prevention of smallpox.

Probably best known of the first sort is the infamous Petroguard, a mythical security contractor (See "SOF Exposes International Ripoff," September '77). Since Petroguard was about as useful as the flu, one could reasonably expect it to have as many mutations. (As reported in SOF [Bulletin Board, April '80, p. 87], a silk-scarved Son Of Petroguard, Star-Tron International, recently conned a number of pilots in Florida and Georgia.)

Petroguard sprang to life in 1974, in the form of newspaper advertisements for veterans wanting Middle East oilfield security work. The contact was a Col. D. Dungan, at a Hong Kong address.

Upon replying, an "applicant" received an application form and an information sheet stating the conditions of employment with Petroguard. It quoted a salary of \$1,500 a month, and said that uniforms, weapons, rations and PX-type shopping facilities would be provided.

All of this sounded good, just as buried treasure and perpetual-motion machines sound good. To make it sound believable as well, the originator of Petroguard demonstrated a considerable creative flair and knowledge of current events. He anticipated questions in the mind of "applicants" and, in effect, answered them in the information sheet before they were asked.

This is the single most important thing to bear in mind about the scammers. They don't just advertise in the newspapers. They also read them, and make their pitch

accordingly. Recounting some of Petroguard's techniques will make this more clear.

Applicant: "The OPEC countries are growing more nationalistic all the time. Why would they contract foreigners to guard their national wealth?"

Information sheet: "Large numbers of nationals are used, but additional personnel are needed for supervisory posts and sensitive assignments."

Applicant: "What about the American Jew? Arab nations wouldn't let them in to guard their oilfields, would they?"

Information sheet: "No, but they can apply for employment in Indonesia."

Applicant: "What about foreign taxes? And since I have to be out of the country for 510 days out of 18 months to skate IRS, what's the length of your employment contract?"

Information sheet: "Foreign taxes are paid. Petroguard's contracts are for 12 months. But they can be renewed, and most of our employees do so."

Applicant: "Take me, I'm yours. To tell you the truth, I don't envy you your job of finding the right people. I've worked overseas, and some of the people that I went over with didn't last six months. I'm also a Vietnam combat veteran, and I'm always running into people who say they went out on ambushes armed only with ice picks and garrotes. How do you winnow out flakes like that? And what about my visa? I've heard that some Middle East countries are in the Dark Ages when it comes to processing paperwork."

Information sheet: "Due to numerous insincere applications, and to cover the cost of visas, a fee is required. Make it out to North American Visa and Placement Services."

Those who sent in money received a note saying that they had made the short list, and should be hearing more in about 45 days. Any follow-up letters sent after that time had elapsed were answered with

another note saying the files had been moved to Bangkok, and there would be a short delay in final selection.

With that, Petroguard went back under its rock. It emerged long enough to try to use SOF's goal of keeping its readers informed on new contracts as a means of gaining a fresh windfall of victims. Letters and phone calls to SOF from the first crop cut this short. SOF did its best to track Petroguard's originator down, and his protestations of innocence are classics in the art of bluff and threat. They are well worth the study of anyone who doubts the lengths to which such vermin will go.

I suspect that other "Sons Of Petroguard" will come along, because conditions have never been better for it. Anyone who enjoys getting nothing for something will probably have his chance.

2. On-Site Scams

For those con men who can keep a straight face while talking to their victims, the second type — the on-site approach — avoids the risk of violating postal laws. The ante is also upped considerably from the visa-fee scam. An operation that came through Houston some years back would probably serve as a fair example of what could be expected from this type of scam.

The Ad

1. Nature of the newspaper advertisement. It was impossible to tell from the ad if it had been placed by an employment agency, contractor or employing company. In a society where corporations spend millions of dollars in developing a suitable logo, it is a very rare company that won't let you know its name. (One exception might be *the Company*, but it doesn't charge fees.)

The Offices

2. Impressive. In this case, a suite of them — sublet from a real estate company for about two weeks. The two con men involved did not bother to remove the realty company's name from the door. They did, however, hang maps in some of the offices to demonstrate that their business was truly global in its scope.

The Interview

3. A disinclination to say exactly who they were. The air of mystery that began with the newspaper ad was maintained during "interviews." There was supposed to be a home office in Boston, no address mentioned. The telephone was answered with a simple "Overseas."

Money

4. \$350 was required for an application to be forwarded. This was not represented

as a visa, processing or placement fee. It was said to be a deposit held to insure that a hired person would show up for his

flight and stay on the job for a certain amount of time. After that it would be refunded.

Jobs

5. Such a diverse number of fields and locations were mentioned as to lead anyone who came in the door to believe that *something* could be found for him.

Creativity

6. The con men involved were creative. One of them showed an ability to read a potential victim at once and fabricate a contract to order. Nothing seemed too ludicrous to mention. Upon learning that I had been to Vietnam twice, he started talking about diving operations in the Gulf of Tonkin. If I had expressed an interest in yak butter, I'm sure that he would have had a few openings in Tibet.

Playing The Heavy

7. The nice guy and the nasty guy. An interesting aspect of this operation was the use of the time-honored Mutt and Jeff routine. One man was close to being downright surly, the other outgoing. The nasty one answered the phone and passed out the applications. By the time an "applicant" got to the nice guy he was on fire to prove his worth. And by what better way than to fly off to some exotic place where he would make ten times more money than the nasty guy ever would?

3. Resume Mills

Resume mills are the third classification of overseas employment scams. Strictly speaking, a resume mill is not a confidence game, because they cover their tracks with fine print. But they are just as unrewarding as their more daring cousins. More important, they are just as costly.

A resume mill operates on the premise that an individual who has no contacts toward overseas employment will pay someone who says that he does. And also that an individual incapable of putting his skills, training and experience down on paper will pay someone to do that too. A resume mill is not paid by employers to locate qualified employees. *It is, instead*, in the business of cranking out resumes for anyone who can pay its fee. Therefore, it has a vested interest in putting as many people as possible in *competition* with each other (assuming there was anything to compete for to *begin with* — something that a client has to pretty much take the resume mill's word for). Resume mills used to mail out the product of their duplicating machines. Now it is the state of the art for the customer to pay for the postage. What do you expect for \$400 or \$500, anyway?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

"I have viewed the overseas employment scene with a jaundiced but not totally disinterested eye," declares George V. Chiles, "and for every plum there's 99 horse apples." We agreed and are glad to welcome him aboard as an SOF author with this guide on how to avoid overseas employment scams.

A former Marine, Chiles served as a sergeant in Vietnam with a combined-action platoon unit (CAP) from August 1967 to February 1968, when he joined the 3rd Recon Battalion, serving there until July 1968.

Chiles returned to Saigon as a civilian in August 1969, working on an Army supply contract with Dynallectron Corp. until April 1970.

—M.L. Jones

Continued on page 79

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Behind Our Backs

Bureaucratic Bungling Boosts VC

by Tony Bliss, Jr.

DURING the Vietnam war, the United States government routinely shipped military manuals such as "Jungle Training and Operations," "Field Fortifications" and "Troop Movement Guide" to the Soviet Union and Cuba, Sen. James Sasser (D-Tenn.) recently disclosed.

Although there is no way to know if copies of these manuals and others were given to the North Vietnamese, it appears probable that they contributed to the communist war effort and may have caused American battlefield deaths.

"It is appalling," said Sen. Sasser, "to think that enemy forces fighting U.S. soldiers may have been helped through the blind stuffing of documents into boxes to be shipped to other countries."

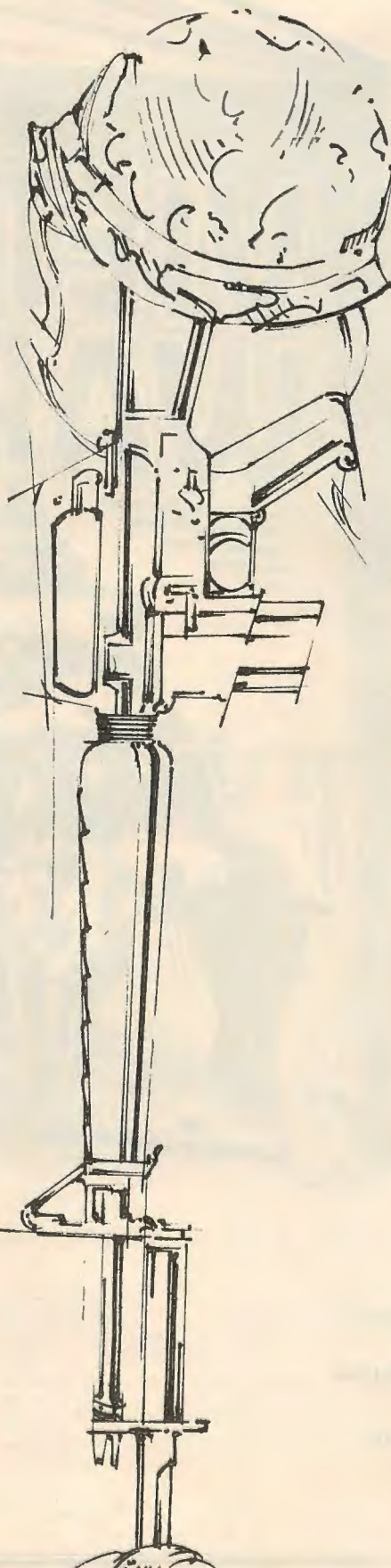
A sampling of other manuals shipped to the communists during the height of the Vietnam war include: "Employment of Chemical and Biological Agents," "Viet Cong Terror Tactics in South Vietnam," "Tactical Communications Doctrine" and "Field Wire and Field Cable Techniques."

These documents were shipped because of an exchange program that traces its origin to a seemingly innocuous 1886 law. Under this law, government documents are supplied to the Library of Congress for distribution through the Smithsonian Institute to foreign governments that "agree to send to the United States similar publications."

Thanks to Sen. Sasser's alert staff member, Terry Sauvain, who uncovered the intelligence giveaway — and the pressure brought to bear by the Senator — the program should in the future confine itself to doing what was originally intended: exchanging official journals, parliamentary documents and official scientific and literary journals.

At least as far as Department of Defense publications are concerned. Adm. Daniel J. Murphy, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Review, directed in a 12 August 1980 letter that military manuals are not to be released outside the government.

But much damage has already been done. In the first three months of 1980, the U.S. sent to the Lenin State Library in Moscow 6,500 documents — courtesy of the American taxpayer — including the following: "Special Forces Commanders Manual," "Heavy Anti-Armor Weapons Crewman," "Cannon Fire Direction Specialist," "Movement of Units in Air Force Aircraft" and "Strategic Microwave Systems Repairer."



When Sen. Sasser directed his staff to ask the Library of Congress to find out who at the Defense Department had authorized shipment of "Field Artillery Battalion LANCE" to the Soviets, the reply was: "Oh, no one. Everything is shipped automatically unless someone objects." The LANCE, a surface-to-surface mobile missile deployed in the U.S. and Europe, is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

Nor are military manuals the only items sent. For example, Central Intelligence Agency maps and atlases of Afghanistan, Angola, Israel, South Korea and Saudi Arabia went to the Soviets. Defense Intelligence Agency reports on the status of the Soviet army, the Global AUTOVON telephone directory from the Defense Communications Agency, and a recurring Foreign Broadcast Agency report detailing the industrial capacity and factories of the People's Republic of China are other examples of publications the U.S. Government routinely sent to the communists and other countries.

In fiscal 1979, for example, 1,608,804 copies of publications were printed for distribution at a cost, including postage, of at least \$1.6 million. In exchange we received 275,486 publications — six times less than we sent. While our allies got the bulk of the shipments, the Soviet Union received 20,300 publications, Cuba 20,200 and 3,100 were sent to Iran.

What do we get in return? The titles of these Soviet propaganda publications speak for themselves: *Soviet Union*, *Sputnik*, *Travel to the USSR*, *Soviet Woman*, *Sport in the USSR*, *XX Century and Peace and Culture and Life*. Of course, much valuable information is gleaned from the numerous newspaper subscriptions we receive. Also useful are several general military journals such as the *Soviet Military Review*, *Military Herald* and *Military History Journal*.

Certainly, however, these publications are in an altogether different class from the military, CIA and DIA publications some naive (at best) clerks sent the communists.

In fact, only 42 percent of the military manuals shipped free to foreign countries are even available for purchase by the American public, according to a Government Printing Office estimate.

While Adm. Murphy's directive does little to console the anger of those who fought in Vietnam or those who will fight the next battles, it does — at least partially — plug a lucrative source of intelligence for our potential adversaries.

Hopefully, the program will continue as originally intended. Instead of "Special Forces Commanders Manual," let the KGB ponder such documents as these 1979 offerings: "Characteristics of Physicians in Tennessee" and "Flood Insurance Study for the City of Cowan, Tennessee."



THE VIETNAM WAR:

An Illustrated
History of the Conflict
in Southeast Asia

By Bernard C. Nalty

Forward by

General William Westmoreland

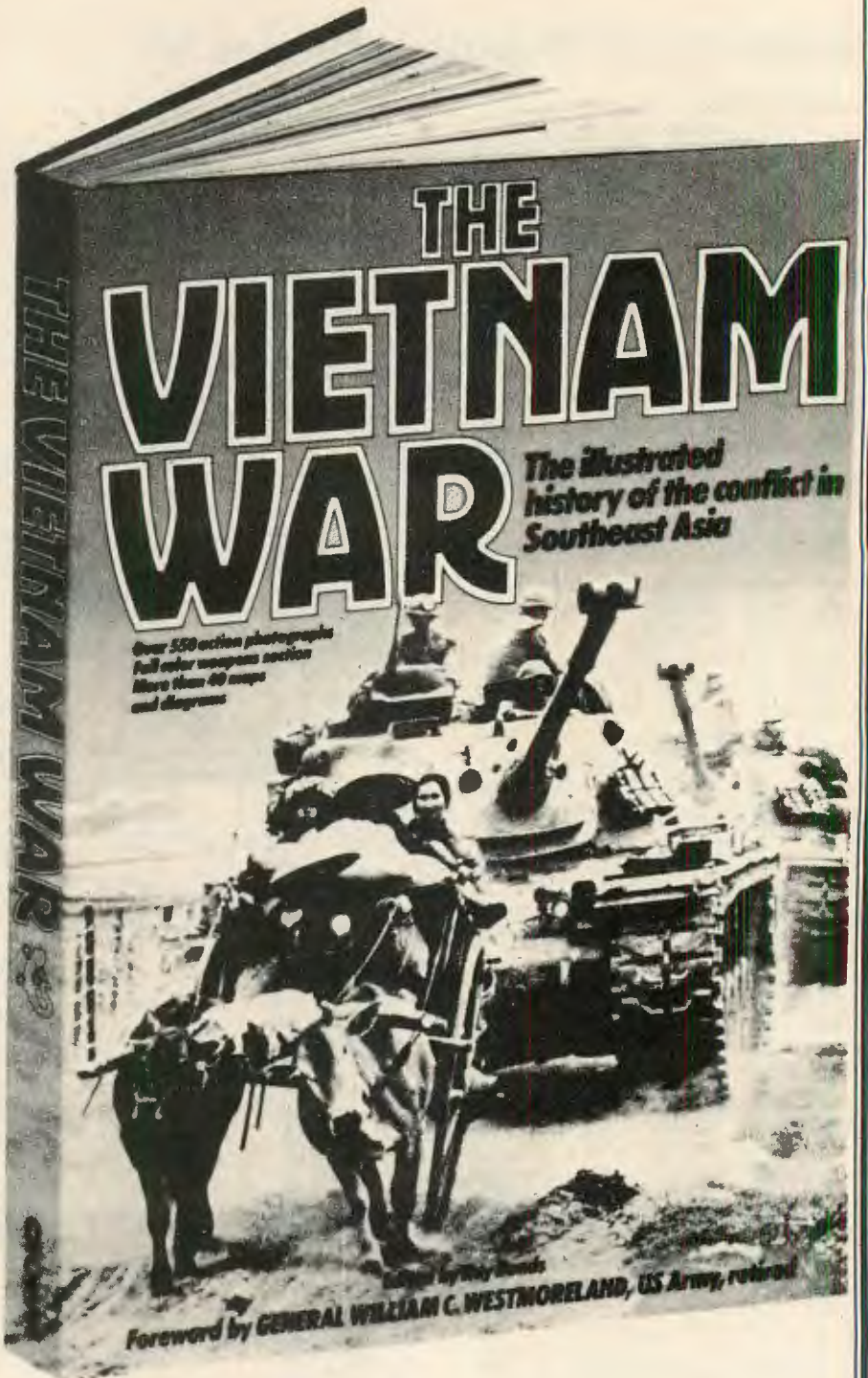
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EXCLUSIVE: SOF Publisher Test-Fires Russia's New AK-74

by Robert K. Brown



TOP: Brown found AK-74 exceptionally easy to control in full-auto mode due to muzzle brake. ABOVE: AK-74, held by Brown, is little different from AK-47 except for caliber, extractor and muzzle brake.

As I had only about 20 minutes to examine and fire the elusive AK-74, I contacted an old acquaintance and small-arms expert, Mack Gwinn, who has had an opportunity to play with this new Russian goodie. Gwinn spent 12 years in Special Forces, with over six of them in 'Nam. He was a weapons NCO with SF and was discharged a captain. One of his first projects was design and manufacture of the Bushmaster system. Recently, he designed a quick-change barrel system for the venerable .50-caliber Browning machine gun and a fixed-head space system for the same gun. Fabrique Na-

tionale purchased these design improvements and have incorporated them into the .50-caliber MGs they manufacture. (The U.S. military has failed to utilize these design improvements but that's another story.—Eds.) He also has designed and arranged for the manufacture of a 75-round drum magazine and a muzzle break based on the AK-74 for sale in the U.S.

SOF: First, let's define the terminology. What is the difference, if any, between a muzzle brake and a compensator?

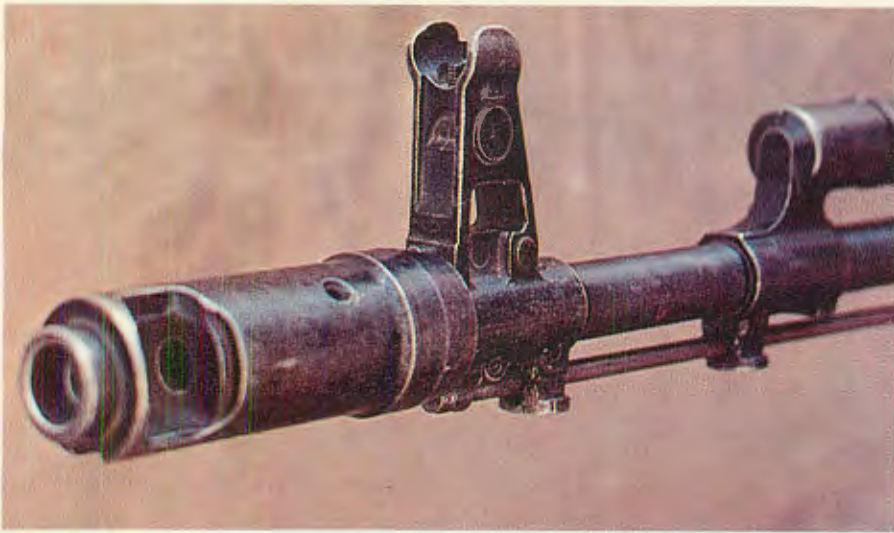
GWINN: The terminology used is a matter of preference. I simply prefer to call it

a muzzle brake. There is, as you know, nothing new about the use of muzzle brakes. They have been around for years. Utilized on small arms as well as large-caliber tank guns and artillery pieces.

SOF: What characteristics do they have in common?

GWINN: The more effective the braking action, the more uncomfortable the effect on the ears of the shooter. In other words, more gas diverted to the rear equals more noise diverted to the rear, or greater muzzle blast.

SOF: What is unique about the AK-74 muzzle brake?



Muzzle brake on AK-74 is far superior to any other muzzle brake currently in use.

GWINN: It's unique in the respect that it reduces both rearward recoil and barrel climb — especially when firing full auto. In fact, barrel climb is totally eliminated.

If you hold the weapon loosely and shoot from the hip on full auto instead of rising or "walking up," it will "walk down" slightly, which is beautiful, as it allows the shooter to adjust his rounds on to the target easily and quickly.

SOF: Precisely how does the AK-74 muzzle brake function?

GWINN: Upon firing the round, the brake initially functions as a conventional brake, reducing rearward recoil in excess of 50 percent. The gas that causes the braking effect comes up the center of the muzzle brake behind the bullet. As the bullet exits the muzzle brake, the gas behind the bullet, which is expanding, hits the front of the brake and is directed upward and rearward.

The AK-74 muzzle brake has tiny slots drilled into its sides which allow the high-velocity gas moving straight forward to intercept the rearward, expanding gas coming off the front to the muzzle brake, deflecting the braking gas forward and away from the shooter, thereby reducing muzzle blast and rise.

SOF: When I fired the AK-74, I obviously could not observe the muzzle-flash effect. Would you comment on how this muzzle brake effects muzzle flash?

GWINN: The AK-74 muzzle brake does not serve as a flash hider. Its design increases the noise level at the end of the brake by one decibel and increases the flash effect by a factor of three. Obviously, the Russians have decided that it is more important to allow the shooter to place rounds effectively on target than to reduce or conceal the muzzle flash.

SOF: Could this type of muzzle brake be utilized with other small arms?

GWINN: Absolutely. On FN's, M14s, M16s. You name it. (*Gwinn has designed and is manufacturing a muzzle brake for military and commercial sale based on the AK-74 muzzle brake for a number of*

weapons systems. SOF will carry a complete test and evaluation on this muzzle brake in a future issue.—Eds.)

SOF: In the short time I had to examine the AK-74 in Darra, it appeared that the AK-74 was simply scaled down to handle the smaller 5.45mm cartridge. What other specific differences are there between the 74 and the 47?

GWINN: The AK-74 is built around the AKM-47 receiver. Ivan has improved the only weak point in the old AK and AKM series, which was an overstressed extractor. They have a totally different extractor. And, as to be expected, the bolt is smaller. However, it has a much better bolt-to-bolt-carrier weight ration.

A three-to-one ratio — the carrier weighing three times that of the bolt — is good. The AKM has a ratio of almost five to one; the AK-74 six to one. Which means you've got a lot of mass that is going to unlock the bolt.

SOF: What's the ratio for the M16?

GWINN: About four to one. Therefore, we can say the AK-74 is far more reliable in this respect.

Shortly after SOF's Galen L. Geer returned from an adventure-filled trip to Afghanistan, SOF staffers began chomping at the bit to get to the hottest combat spot in the world. Afghanistan was where the action was. And this time the bad guys were the Russians themselves, not their terrorist or Cuban lackeys (the running dogs of Russian imperialism).

SOF started planning. The SOF team selected included Editor/Publisher Brown, Paramedic Operations Editor Dr. John Peters, Explosives/Demolition Editor John Donovan, Vietnam vet and small-arms and avionics expert Michael Pate and a "back-up" man who prefers to remain anonymous. The objectives and concept of operation, as well as the results of the SOF operation will be, to some degree, reported in a future issue.

Geer had seen and photographed the Russian AK-74 but was unable to fire it. And his photos had mysteriously disap-

peared. Therefore, one of the SOF's team's primary missions was to locate and fire the 74.

After a number of misadventures, primarily due to the airlines, SOF established a base of operations in Peshawar, Pakistan, not far from the Afghan border, in late August 1980. SOF established contacts with several Afghan "freedom-fighter groups and initiated not-too-subtle inquiries about getting access to the AK-74, as well as other items of interest.

Concurrently, we made the hour-long drive on a rut-ridden road through a barren valley to Darra in the Northwestern Frontier Province. Darra, as reported in the May 1980 issue of SOF, is a major source of weapons for the Afghans.

We had decided Darra, with its 100-odd gun shops — and equal number of obnoxious odors — would be a likely source for the AK-74.

Fondling Iranian G-3s, Egyptian AK-47s, 1928 Thompsons and a miscellany of other hardware, Mike Pate's keen eyes zeroed in on a lone AK-74 round lying between bags of ammo. Our hopes rose with our eyebrows. Where there was ammo there might be guns.

And then we were introduced to the Pathan version of the Latin American *manana* syndrome.

"Tomorrow," the shifty-eyed gun dealer proclaimed, "we will have an AK-74!" And tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow. "Tomorrow" turned into two weeks, and everybody had left or was leaving. One last desperate trip to the *manana* gun dealer on the day I was leaving. The shifty-eyed gun dealer, smelling no better than usual, was there — and so was the AK-74! Tomorrow had turned into today.

I had only about 30 minutes before I had to catch my plane. I grabbed the gun, and the gun dealer led me through a maze of alleys — which I would enter at night only if Donovan were walking point — to a field-expedient firing range, which consisted of agricultural fields adjoining the town. I loaded the magazine and began busting caps. Expensive caps — each one cost 80 cents. The pistol grip was missing and I could only hope that it had been shot off the weapon as a .303 Enfield round penetrated the torso of a Russian paratrooper.

Yes, Virginia, you can bring heat on Santa Claus at 200 meters on full auto. The gun handled and functioned well, and was exceptionally easy to control in the full-auto mode. Granted, the test was not conclusive and was far too short. But there is no doubt in my mind that it's a damn good system, though I'd want to run a few hundred rounds more through one before I took it into combat. But on the other hand, it beats the hell out of a .303 and .303 Enfields.



DOWN
DOWN
DOWN
DOWN
DOWN
DOWN
DOWN



Nazi U-boat Lurks in Watery Grave

by Fred Reed

WE hit the ocean at 0900, stepping through the deckgate of the charter *Coral Sea*, and there in the Great Blue Swimming Pool — that huge, blue, dim emptiness that opens before your faceplate in the ocean, stretching to Europe without a break — was the barracuda. He was a big, ocean-going fellow, four or five feet long — not the cute little three-foot numbers that hunt in the reefs. He hung motionless, eyeing me as I checked my regulator and seated my mask while rising and falling in the Atlantic swells. The U-352 lay 110 feet below us (an excellent place for your equipment not to do anything surprising).

Maggie — my buddy and a superb diver — pointed toward the anchor line and gave me thumbs down. We dumped the air from our buoyancy compensators (BCs) and started to descend, clearing our ears and watching the barracuda. There were three of them now, grey blades in the vastness. I knew they wouldn't attack, and hoped they knew it too. Even with 18 pounds of lead I was too light and waited for the growing pressure to compress my wetsuit and let me sink. Down, down we went. The 'cudas dropped behind as we sank through the glowing blue soup and entered that strange zone where you see neither surface nor bottom — just the anchor line disappearing in two directions in the murk. A world apart — the only

sound a hollow hiss from the regulator ...sssss! ... followed by a shuddering rumble of bubbles and a silver cloud rising before the mask, the water cooling in distinct thermoclines, everything getting darker. We were too deep now to get to the surface if anything went wrong.

Below us the blue began to pale and an outline appeared, solidified and turned to a long dark hulk on sand, somehow lonely on the endless desert of the ocean floor. The sub. My depth gauge registered 90 feet when I released the anchor line and sank slowly to sit on the conning tower of a U-boat 35 years dead. I wondered whether her crew haunted her.

When the Coast Guard cutter *Icarus* sank her in 1945, they didn't get out. The last minutes couldn't have been nice — sinking stern first with water pouring in under high pressure, doors jamming, lights shorting out, men screaming and clawing at hatches that wouldn't open against the weight of the ocean, and the realization in the gurgling blackness that This was It. *Aufwiedersehen*.

Something moved in the corner of my mask — something big, and it wasn't Maggie. I whipped around like a spring-loaded jack rabbit, thinking ohjesus-heresmyfuckingbangstickwhenIneedit? Divers do encounter sharks from time to time, and I do not subscribe to theories about how docile a 14-foot hammerhead

becomes if you poke him in the snout. Without a weapon a man in scuba gear is as helpless as a boxer with no arms. I stared for an unpleasant moment at a half-dozen grey shapes circling us, getting myself ready to dodge or some other damned fool thing that wouldn't do any good. Then my mind managed to put it

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Fred Reed, currently a freelance writer out of Washington, D.C., first contributed to SOF as an editorial writer. (See "This Is The Army?," Aug. '80 and "Battlefield Wrong Arena For ERA," Oct. '80).

Reed served 361 days in Vietnam with the Marines, and now has disabled-veteran status. He returned to Vietnam and Cambodia as a stringer for the *Army Times*, where he reported on that conflict until the fall of Saigon.

A physical-fitness nut, Reed swims and dives whenever possible and, as a reporter, has dived with the *Special Forces* in Panama — an experience which included night diving with no lights.

SOF hopes to include more of Reed's work in future issues.

—C.E.D.Kite

Continued on page 84

SOF's Milestone Shooting Event

by Ken Hackathorn

A milestone event took place in central Missouri on 26, 27 and 28 September 1980 at the Ray Chapman Range in Columbia: The first annual Soldier of Fortune shooting match tested the skill of nearly 100 top-ranked competitors in combat pistol, fighting shotgun and battle rifle events. The match was held in conjunction with the magazine's first annual convention.

Casual observers might suggest that such shooting events should be normal for U.S. military and police organizations. Sadly, most training systems have less variety and practical tests of skill than did this match, but Robert K. Brown and the SOF staff provided a proving ground for practical weaponcraft. Competitors in the by-invitation-only match were selected for their background and shooting ability. A very high percentage of them came from police or military organizations. The three match weapons were chosen on the basis of their importance in a combat role.

minute-par time limit, and one point was deducted for each second over the three-minute-par time. Speed became an important factor. The rifle course had a score value of 360 points at par time. Thus, a rifleman capable of accuracy, fast shooting and quick movement, could increase his score well above the 360-point level.

Nine of the competitors managed to score above the 360-par level. On the other hand, many shooters were humbled by this course. Most, however, felt — before the event — that target distances were not overly difficult and the shooting would be easy. Faced with the time-limit stress, two 40-yard sprints and having to reload, many shooters discovered that targets became elusive.

Careful study of normal combat encounters shows that battlefield riflemen rarely engage an enemy target at ranges of more than 300 meters, and most effective



Photos: Col. Brooke Nihart

ABOVE: Competitor fires at steel impact targets during Phase 2 of shotgun match. **CENTER:** Competitor moves forward to cover during Phase 1 of shotgun match before engaging last three targets. Notice range officers running after him.

First, and most critical, was the battle rifle match. Rifle-course ranges extended from 70 to 245 yards. The course consisted of 15 silhouette targets and six steel, falling plates. Time limit was a par time of three minutes. A competitor's score was upped by one point for each second he completed the course under the three-

minute-par time limit, and one point was deducted for each second over the three-minute-par time. Speed became an important factor. The rifle course had a score value of 360 points at par time. Thus, a rifleman capable of accuracy, fast shooting and quick movement, could increase his score well above the 360-point level.

More than 50 percent of the contestants chose the Heckler & Koch Model 91 7.62 NATO rifle for their weapon. Second in popularity was the Springfield Armory M1A 7.62 NATO rifle. Other rifle-match



weapons were pretty well split between FN FALs and M1 Garands in .30-06.

The match required .30-caliber battle rifles and forbade the use of .223 weapons — because the .223 is incapable of knocking down the steel plates. Also, SOF sponsors wanted to test superior rifle skills and felt that it takes more skill to shoot a battle rifle of 7.62 NATO or equal caliber than the light-recoiling .223 family of battle carbines. In the future, .223 weapons may be included because availability of good 7.62s is extremely limited and their cost is escalating.

Overall, the rifle match was the major contest — a deliberate choice, because the rifle is a soldier's primary weapon.

Second was the test of practical pistol skill, a competitive path already blazed by the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC). SOF sponsors had little difficulty in selecting a series of IPSC drills to test practical combat skills with the defensive pistol. They designed a simple course that required a total of 36 rounds. First, a total of 12 rounds were fired from the 25-yard line in two stages, a distance that duplicates the extreme long range normally encountered in combat.

Next, a series of drills were fired at the 10-yard line. After a total of 18 rounds from this distance, six more rounds were fired from the seven-yard line.

Top-ranked IPSC shooters scored well in this event. Out of a possible 180-point score, the winner posted 177. Although pistol skill is important, in the military role its need is less critical. Therefore, the pistol match's score value totaled only half of the rifle event.

Most pistol shooters chose the Colt .45 1911 as their weapon — a choice that should come as no surprise to anyone by now. Scoring was the same for all calibers, so the .45 had no advantage over the 9mm or .38 Special. Only a few 9mm autos or .38 Specials were used. The P-35 Browning was the preferred 9mm choice, and the .38 Special users were police officers with duty S&W, Colt and Ruger revolvers.

As a sidelight, all SOF match contestants had to wear their pistol or revolver during each of the events in the same holster and in the same position. If the sidearm fell out of the holster in the rifle course or shotgun match, the shooter was disqualified, so practical holsters were the rule.

Future SOF pistol events might possibly include a stage with some movement, such as a short obstacle course. Such an event must reflect realism, as well as be easily officiated.

The final event, the practical shotgun match, proved educational for most contestants. Administration and scoring of such an event is difficult at best. To truly test fighting-shotgun skill, one must use buckshot loads, and scoring targets becomes a problem. Paper targets are out, since they must be replaced for each shot.

Steel-impact targets with 18-by-24-inch plates were chosen because they closely approximate chest-area size, and a clay bird was attached to the center of each one. Contestants had to break the clay bird with each shot. Starting at 25 yards with the weapon loaded with five rounds of buckshot, safety on and held at port arms, the shooter had six seconds to fire one round at each of five targets, spaced 12 feet apart. He then moved forward to the 15-yard line and repeated the same drill in 4.5 seconds. A hit was worth 10 points, a miss zero.

The second phase of the SOF practical shotgun match involved shooting at five silhouette targets, each representing varying degrees of danger, from the 25-yard line, reloading, running forward to cover and then engaging three more targets. In this phase, the contestant used rifled slugs. Total time was 18 seconds for this tactical exercise.

In both phases, match accuracy was important, and shooting technique really counted. Few people in the U.S. understand the technique of the fighting shotgun. Although the riot gun has a macho image, few users can achieve maximum performance with it. We all have heard gunshop-commando comments about just pointing the riot gun in the general direction, pulling the trigger — and everything will go down. In the SOF practical-shotgun match, the big boys knew better. They shot from the shoulder, used a flash-sight picture and achieved well centered hits. All top 10 finishers used Remington 1100 shotguns.

I prefer the 12-gauge pump-action repeating shotgun, generally in riot-gun configuration. Most SOF contestants used pump guns, but technique wiped many of them out. In theory, the pump-action riot gun is more reliable than the autoloader. Its weakness stems from operator error. We saw a lot of "short stroking" in the match by those who used pump riot guns, which cost valuable points.

In practically all police-training courses, students are permitted to take the shotgun down from the shoulder, work the action, then resoulder and fire again. Therefore, they are not conditioned to work the action quickly from the shoulder for fast follow-up shots. The most common malfunctions in the SOF match were caused by short-stroking the actions.

A few autoloading-shotgun failures occurred. Many contestants using the new Winchester one-ounce rifled slug loads had light-loaded rounds that failed to cycle the 1100 Remingtons. Here, the pump gun is not as sensitive.

Out of a possible score of 180 points, two men shot a perfect score and a number of others placed at 179. When a course of fire can be cleaned, it is obviously too easy, but to shorten the time limit in order to make the course more difficult would penalize the pump-gun users. Since the idea is to test practical skills and

reflect realism, the pump-action guns must be kept competitive.

Overall, the SOF three-gun shooting event proved a great success. Thanks must go to Ray Chapman and his staff, who provided a superbly run event and top-quality judges and range officers. Such skill is rarely seen in major events. Chapman and his staff have plenty of expertise, thanks to their participation in other shooting events such as the Bianchi Cup.

I was impressed by the smoothness and ease with which the shooters' schedule was followed. Contestants were never kept waiting and were always treated fairly and allowed plenty of time to ask questions. Safety was paramount and all gun handling was done in a professional manner.

The numerous media teams present to film and report on the SOF convention must have been impressed by the competitors who were orderly, safety conscious, and excellent representatives of the shooting fraternity. Cooperation of the Chapman staff and range officers and hard work by the SOF staff were keys to the success of this outstanding shooting event.

WEAPONS USED BY TOP 10 SHOOTERS

1. Raul Walters: Rifle, H&K 91; Pistol, Pachmayr Combat Special .45; Shotgun, Remington 1100.
2. John Shaw: Rifle, M1A; Pistol, Clark Bowling Pin; Shotgun, Remington 1100.
3. Mark Lonsdale: Rifle, H&K 91; Pistol, .45 Commander; Shotgun, Remington 1100.
4. William Rogers: Rifle, H&K 91; Pistol, .45 MKIV Series 70 Wilson Model; Shotgun, Remington 1100.
5. Mickey Fowler: Rifle, M1A; Pistol, .45 Hoag longslide with 6" barrel; Shotgun, Remington 1100.
6. Michael Plaxco: Rifle, H&K 91; Pistol, Colt Mark IV modified by Wilson Gun Works; Shotgun, Remington 1100.
7. Jeffrey Chudwin: Rifle, M1A (match); Pistol, .45 Gold Cup; Shotgun, Remington 1100, Slug barrel.
8. Bill Wilson: Rifle, H&K 91; Pistol, .45 automatic customized by Wilson Gun Shop; Shotgun, Remington 1100.
9. Alan Kulovitz: Rifle, M1A (match); Pistol, .45 Gold Cup; Shotgun, Remington 1100, Slug barrel.
10. Charles Byers: Rifle, M1A, Heavy barrel & special muzzle brake by Accuracy Systems; Pistol, .38 Super Colt Combat job by A/S, Bomar barrel, S&W Sights; Shotgun, Remington 1100, 26 barrel cylinder bore with 8-shot mag, barrel vented.

COMPETITION WINNERS

RIFLE COMPETITION

| Name | Score | Place |
|----------------|-------|-------|
| Raul Walters | 419 | 1 |
| John Shaw | 416 | 2 |
| Mark Lonsdale | 404 | 3 |
| William Rogers | 403 | 4 |

PRIZE

1st—Ineligible to win prizes; 2nd—Springfield Armory 7.62 NATO M1A Rifle; 3rd—Ruger 5.56mm Mini-14 Rifle; 4th—Ruger 5.56mm Mini-14 Rifle.

PISTOL COMPETITION

| Name | Score | Place |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| Raul Walters | 177 | 1 |
| Mickey Fowler | 177 | 2 |
| Michael Plaxco | 176 | 3 |
| Jeffrey Chudwin | 176 | 4 |

PRIZE

1st—Ineligible to win prizes; 2nd—M59 S&W 9mm Devel Fullhouse Conversion; 3rd—M-S Safari Arms .45 Pistol; 4th—Detonics .45 Pistol.

SHOTGUN COMPETITION

| Name | Score | Place |
|---------------|-------|-------|
| John Shaw | 180 | 1 |
| Alan Kulovitz | 180 | 2 |
| Bill Wilson | 179 | 3 |

PRIZE

1st—Remington 870 12-gauge Pump Shotgun; 2nd—Ithaca Parkerized 12-gauge Pump Shotgun; 3rd—High Standard 12-gauge Pump Shotgun.

OVERALL COMPETITION

| Name | Score | Place |
|----------------|-------|-------|
| Raul Walters | 775 | 1 |
| John Shaw | 771 | 2 |
| William Rogers | 726 | 3 |
| Charles Byers | 714 | 4 |
| Bill Wilson | 711 | 5 |

PRIZE

1st—Donation of \$1,100 top overall prize to Veterans Administration; 2nd—\$1,000; 3rd—\$700; 4th—\$500; 5th—\$200 plus CAR-15 Conversion Kit from B.H. Service.



Competitor fires during one of first two phases of pistol competition. Photo: Col. Brooke Nihart



SOF CONVENTION PRIZE LIST

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--|--------|---|--------------------|
| Company | Prizes | Denver Bullets | 360.28 | Paladin Enterprises | 500.00 |
| Adventure Book Club | \$ 600.00 | Devel Corp. | 800.00 | Paramilitary & Wilderness Outfitters, Inc. | 62.45 |
| Al Mar Knives | 383.00 | Florida Consumers Union | 75.00 | PFM | 454.00 |
| Applegate-Yancy | 300.00 | Free Companion Press | 250.00 | Practical Survivalist | 32.85 |
| A.S.P. | 50.00 | Gerber Legendary Blades | 49.00 | Presidio Press | 61.75 |
| Bali-Song | 250.00 | Richard Heinie Custom Combat Guns | 125.00 | Retting, Martin | 102.00 |
| Best Sports Supply | 240.00 | Horizone | 33.00 | R.M.S. | 40.00 |
| B.H. Service | 180.00 | Bill Jordan | 25.50 | Second Chance Body Armor, Inc. | 500.00 |
| Bianchi Gunleather | 1024.40 | K&S Arms | 100.00 | Soldier of Fortune Magazine | 6676.05 |
| Brauer Brothers | 511.00 | Killzone | 70.00 | Southeastern Surplus | 52.50 |
| Brigade Quartermasters | 187.85 | Kuan Shu Associates | 132.60 | Springfield Armory | 750.00 |
| B-Square Co. | 82.90 | Lancer Militaria | 35.00 | Starlight Training Center | 150.00 |
| Buckles By Mike | 25.00 | Larder Survival Books | 109.50 | Swenson's .45 Shop | 120.00 |
| Butokukai | 5.00 | Leatherwood Bros. | 500.00 | T.B.N. Enterprises | 60.00 |
| C.A., Inc. | 20.00 | Liro Pubs. | 522.00 | T&G Enterprises | 10.00 |
| Choate Machine & Tool | 1111.00 | Long Survival Pub. | 41.82 | U.S. Cavalry Store | 40.00 |
| Combat Shooters Report | 130.00 | MX Military Exchange | 18.00 | Unique Imports | 94.90 |
| Commando Arms, Inc. | 17.98 | M-S Safari Arms | 700.00 | TOTAL | \$19,676.13 |
| Crawford Intl. | 309.00 | Natchez Shooters Supply | 293.90 | | |
| Crown Publishers | 26.90 | Pachmayr Gun Works | 85.00 | | |
| Custom-Made Holster | 190.00 | | | | |

SOF CONVENTION THREE-GUN COMBAT MATCH

| Name | Overall Standing | Rifle | Shotgun | Pistol | Overall | Name | Overall Standing | Rifle | Shotgun | Pistol | Overall |
|----------------------|------------------|-------|---------|--------|---------|--------------------|------------------|-------|---------|--------|---------|
| Raul Walters | 1 | 419 | 179 | 177 | 775 | Anthony Dee | 48 | 275 | 167 | 146 | 588 |
| John Shaw | 2 | 416 | 180 | 175 | 771 | David Van Natta | 49 | 291 | 140 | 156 | 587 |
| William Rogers | 3 | 403 | 170 | 153 | 726 | O.G. Pinkston, III | 50 | 289 | 146 | 152 | 587 |
| Charles Byers | 4 | 396 | 150 | 168 | 714 | James Walker | 51 | 328 | 118 | 140 | 586 |
| Bill Wilson | 5 | 360 | 179 | 172 | 711 | William Patterson | 52 | 299 | 138 | 147 | 584 |
| Jeff Chudwin | 6 | 363 | 170 | 176 | 709 | C.R. Staples | 53 | 257 | 157 | 160 | 574 |
| William North | 7 | 375 | 159 | 173 | 707 | Steve Martinkovic | 54 | 268 | 156 | 148 | 572 |
| Lanny Proviencce | 8 | 349 | 180 | 176 | 705 | Mike Harding | 55 | 347 | 96 | 128 | 571 |
| Thomas L. Banks | 9 | 349 | 179 | 169 | 697 | T.R. Burns | 56 | 304 | 146 | 119 | 569 |
| Eddie Brown | 10 | 343 | 179 | 175 | 697 | Steve McCreary | 57 | 237 | 169 | 163 | 569 |
| Mark Lonsdale | 11 | 404 | 119 | 165 | 688 | Byron Kern | 58 | 243 | 158 | 161 | 562 |
| Mike Plaxco | 12 | 333 | 179 | 176 | 688 | Bob Arganbright | 59 | 273 | 146 | 141 | 560 |
| David Churilla | 13 | 330 | 178 | 157 | 665 | Tom Van Horn | 60 | 323 | 147 | 89 | 559 |
| Robert McGee | 14 | 349 | 147 | 168 | 664 | Bob Waller | 61 | 206 | 169 | 173 | 548 |
| Ed Blankinship | 15 | 319 | 176 | 168 | 663 | Donald Steele | 62 | 299 | 113 | 134 | 546 |
| Don Clark | 16 | 366 | 128 | 164 | 658 | Fred Nagel | 63 | 218 | 157 | 167 | 542 |
| Harry Clafin | 17 | 351 | 158 | 146 | 655 | Jay Laymon | 64 | 211 | 169 | 159 | 539 |
| Ken Hackathorn | 18 | 321 | 158 | 176 | 655 | Randolph Ray | 65 | 268 | 119 | 150 | 537 |
| James Cirillo | 19 | 338 | 159 | 152 | 649 | Dennis Jorgensen | 66 | 245 | 130 | 160 | 535 |
| Michael Keyes | 20 | 329 | 166 | 154 | 649 | Jim Borowski | 67 | 271 | 139 | 124 | 534 |
| Marshall Todd | 21 | 292 | 174 | 175 | 641 | Tom Givens | 68 | 204 | 160 | 167 | 531 |
| Mickey Fowler | 22 | 332 | 129 | 177 | 638 | Keith Kostelny | 69 | 213 | 170 | 146 | 529 |
| Lynn Schoening | 23 | 306 | 179 | 152 | 637 | Gregory Webb | 70 | 290 | 144 | 93 | 527 |
| Richard Heinie | 24 | 339 | 137 | 158 | 634 | Tom Conry | 71 | 248 | 144 | 118 | 510 |
| Greg Moats | 25 | 316 | 157 | 161 | 634 | Kenneth Kreigh | 72 | 179 | 170 | 161 | 510 |
| Ron Keiser | 26 | 303 | 170 | 161 | 634 | Daniel Day | 73 | 253 | 129 | 127 | 509 |
| Chappie Gennett | 27 | 288 | 176 | 167 | 631 | Jake Jatras | 74 | 228 | 119 | 162 | 509 |
| Frank Triplett, Jr. | 28 | 292 | 166 | 168 | 626 | Tom Muennich | 75 | 241 | 117 | 145 | 503 |
| Gary Woodworth | 29 | 306 | 157 | 161 | 624 | Leon Lingren | 76 | 213 | 148 | 138 | 499 |
| Charles Hart | 30 | 311 | 160 | 152 | 623 | Ron Plumlee, Sr. | 77 | 223 | 119 | 148 | 490 |
| J. Scott Gilder | 31 | 304 | 148 | 170 | 622 | Julio Andrade | 78 | 246 | 109 | 122 | 477 |
| Jamie Coffey | 32 | 302 | 150 | 166 | 618 | J.W. Reser | 79 | 236 | 168 | 64 | 468 |
| Tom Wilkinson | 33 | 332 | 139 | 143 | 614 | Walter Serth | 80 | 195 | 120 | 141 | 456 |
| Michael Wheeler | 34 | 316 | 149 | 148 | 613 | Gary Williams | 81 | 164 | 144 | 143 | 451 |
| James Stanford | 35 | 286 | 168 | 159 | 613 | T.D. Becker | 82 | 93 | 179 | 168 | 440 |
| Tony Sacco | 36 | 281 | 170 | 160 | 611 | David Jones | 83 | 120 | 177 | 124 | 421 |
| David "Rocky" Eales | 37 | 316 | 179 | 115 | 610 | Ron Proudlock | 84 | 139 | 129 | 139 | 407 |
| William Steigerwaldt | 38 | 339 | 120 | 150 | 609 | Joe Walker | 85 | 250 | 78 | 72 | 400 |
| Fritz Johnk | 39 | 319 | 149 | 139 | 607 | Richard Gwozdick | 86 | 242 | 120 | 24 | 386 |
| Robert Wuytack | 40 | 302 | 158 | 146 | 606 | Clem Potelunas | 87 | 110 | 108 | 151 | 369 |
| William Palermo | 41 | 311 | 147 | 147 | 605 | Matt Parisoff | 88 | 13 | 178 | 156 | 347 |
| Alan Kulovitz | 42 | 278 | 180 | 146 | 604 | Jeffrey Davis | 89 | 173 | 56 | 98 | 327 |
| Dick Thomas | 43 | 280 | 157 | 165 | 602 | Ross Braatsch, III | 90 | 103 | 128 | 69 | 300 |
| Roger Conley | 44 | 318 | 156 | 125 | 599 | T.C. Shattock | 91 | 165 | 98 | 15 | 278 |
| Ted Deacon | 45 | 318 | 149 | 131 | 598 | Rocky Stewart | 92 | 95 | 76 | 97 | 268 |
| Kirk McClurkin | 46 | 265 | 179 | 154 | 598 | W.C. Walitzer | 93 | 36 | 116 | 92 | 244 |
| Tim Oliver | 47 | 277 | 150 | 170 | 597 | | | | | | |

GATHERING OF THE PROFESSIONALS

SOF Sponsors Its First Convention

by Jim Graves
Photos by Cynthia E.D. Kite



SOF staff members who participated in the highly popular question-and-answer session on soldiers of fortune, adventuring and the military are, right to left: John Donovan, Maj. L.H. "Mike" Williams, Bill Brooks, Dana Drenkowski, SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown and Col. Alex McColl. Photo: H.C. Davis



One of the 100 competitors fires his .45 automatic in the pistol event at the Ray Chapman range.



SOF's Bob Taylor, one of the staff's martial-arts experts, but also a good hand with knives, takes aim on target at Ray Chapman range. Taylor made over 600 throws during the three-day convention despite his arm injury.

Only in America.

What you had there [at the banquet] were 750 men dressed in cammies, listening to a bunch of disgruntled colonels blistering our commander-in-chief. If that had happened in any other country you would have quickly found yourself out in the parking lot, taking cover behind a burning car with a pile of empty cartridge cases beside you. Either that or you would be up against the portable adobe wall. Only in America could it happen.

Col. Alex McGill



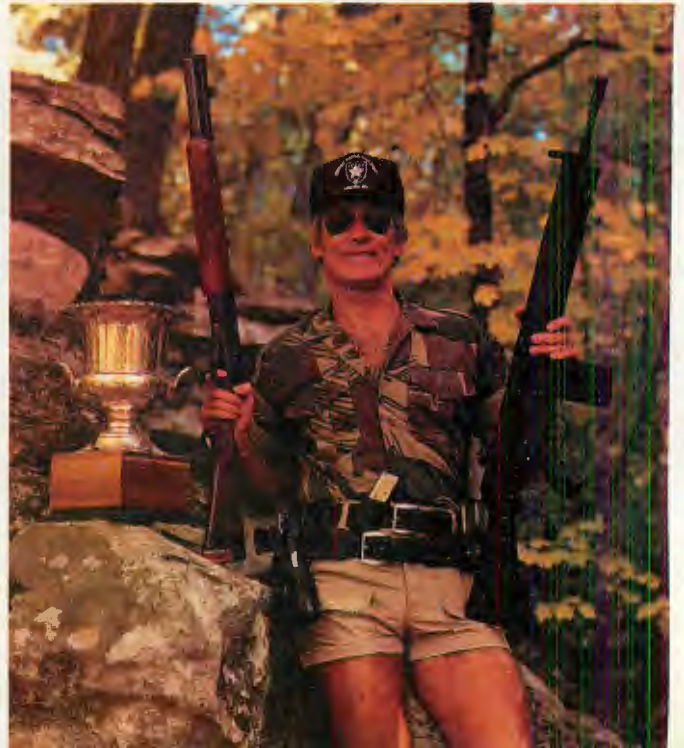
ABOVE: Ike (left) and C.J. Jones, private investigators who run International Criminology Enterprise in Chicago, came as SOF conventioners but wound up as "volunteer" helpers at the range. RIGHT: General Vang Pao (left) and SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown shake hands prior to Brown's presentation of the Bull Simons Memorial Award to Vang Pao, leader of Laotian anti-communist forces in Vietnam war.



SOF competitor waits anxiously while match officials score targets.



Competitor fires .45 automatic during pistol event at the three-gun match.



THOSE who believe that patriotism, pride and professionalism are dead in America would have been converted had they attended the 1st annual *Soldier of Fortune* magazine convention in Columbia, Mo., September 26-28.

The convention exceeded all expectations by drawing more than 750 SOFers from all over the country to the central Missouri college town for a weekend of camaraderie, fellowship and fun spiced by reasonable, articulate criticism of the course this country has taken in the recent past.

One member of the press corps — and there was nearly a corps on hand, with 70 different newspapers, magazines, TV and radio stations represented — described it perfectly when he said: "It's almost as if they came here on a common mission."

Men With A Mission

That mission appears to have been to meet others who had served their country, are proud of it and believe in a strong and professional military.

As the SOFers started filing in on Thursday to Columbia's Hilton Hotel, it became obvious that they hailed from a broad, representative spectrum of American society. The conventioners turned out to be members of law-enforcement agencies, workers, farmers, insurance salesmen, businessmen, clergy, current-duty military, pilots and, yes, even some professional soldiers of fortune.

Much to the disgust of some Columbia residents — including a dozen or so who paraded ridiculously, but at a safe distance from the headquarters hotel, in protest — and some of the press, SOFers didn't show up with "kill" painted on their foreheads or with their knuckles sweeping the floor.

Prior to the arrival of the conventioners, there was some speculation and rumor mongering in the town that the SOFers — all of whom were bloodthirsty killers and lunatics to boot — would essentially rape, pillage and burn.

FAR LEFT: Competitor fires Remington 870 (note magazine extension) during shotgun event at Chapman Academy. **LEFT:** Raul Walters — who had top overall score of 775, top in rifle with 419 and top in pistol with 177 — with trophy he won and weapons he used (Heckler & Koch 91 rifle, Pachmayr Combat Special .45 and Remington 1100 shotgun) during SOF's three-gun match. Walters, who was not eligible to receive prize money, got the overall trophy, but the \$1,100 check was donated to the Veterans Administration Hospital in Columbia, Mo. Photo: Johnny Keller

Prior Prejudices

Well, it didn't work out that way: if anything, the SOFers left Columbia in better shape than they found it.

At least some Columbians and most of the press learned that SOFers were just like them, with the notable exception that all SOFers are patriotic, proud of it and not prone to mince words.

As the Hilton Hotel bar began to fill up on Thursday night with cammie-clad conventioners, the talk turned quickly to today's politics, today's defense establishment and its current policies, current American defense capability and yesterday's wars.

While only a smattering of the SOFers found old friends from previous wars (primarily Vietnam, but a few from earlier American wars or even more exotic ones overseas), most found others whom they could communicate with, tell a war story or two with or raise a little hell with.

The Hilton Hotel manager was quoted before the convention as saying that the hotel staff "had visions of the SOFers rappelling from the roof and firing bazookas in the halls." They were so worried they asked the hotel cocktail waitresses to wear slacks instead of their regular revealing dresses.

But, alas, it was much more fun to relive some old wars, plot strategy for tomorrow's war or engage in a little intra-service kidding than it was to rappel, shoot up the corridors or hassle the staff.

Friday's Frolics

Friday morning arrived much too early for those who had conducted the siege in the bar — a profitable one for the Hilton, which averages \$600 a night during a football weekend, but rang up over \$2,000 a night during the SOF convention — but when it did, it passed quickly in a flurry of activity.

The daytime activities — the three-gun match at the Ray Chapman Academy and the parachuting session, which drew almost 100 participants — were well attended, as were the briefings on Rhodesia by SOF's "Mike" Williams, on gun control and on free-lance writing by SOF staff.

By the time the SOFers turned out for Friday night's banquet, the atmosphere of fellowship had reached an intensity totally beyond the expectations of even the most enthusiastic SOF staffer or conventioner.

And the banquet started well, despite the fact that so many showed up that it was physically impossible to seat all SOFers in the same hall for the dinner — something which will never happen again.

After the presentation of colors, dinner and the introduction of SOF staff and guests, SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown introduced Laotian General Vang Pao and presented him with the first Bull

Simons Memorial Award. For Vang Pao the award was a four-foot medieval-style broadsword.

Sour Note

The one and only convention glitch followed, as guest speaker Robin Moore broached subjects (and demonstrated his blatant racism) in a manner found clearly inappropriate and insulting by the majority of the SOFers — black, brown and white.

That presented a problem to SOF, which was to occupy the majority of the senior staffers' time for the next 18 hours, and eventually lead to a press conference on Saturday in which Publisher Brown announced that SOF unequivocally disas-

BATF STRIKES AGAIN

by Ronald Proudlock

DETROIT-AREA cops Ronald Proudlock and Evan Marshall's goal was a quiet breakfast at a restaurant in Columbia, Missouri, during the SOF convention. Their meal, however, was interrupted by the appearance of a long-haired male of Indian descent. After asking them if he could "rap with them" for a minute, he immediately launched into a tale of woe concerning his arrest while running guns and narcotics into Mexico.

He then asked the two if they could turn him on to something good in the way of mercenary work. Proudlock replied that they were there just to compete in the match and had no knowledge of mercenary employment opportunities. The alleged gunrunner then informed them that he was waiting for his parole officer to give him a ride and left the restaurant.

After a brief discussion, the two far-away-from-home cops decided that this "close encounter" deserved further investigation. After paying for their meal, they left the restaurant and began a casual search of the neighborhood. Their visitor, supposedly a local lad without transportation, was found sitting in a VW with Texas plates. It was parked so that he could watch the people entering the restaurant in his rearview mirror. When Marshall and Proudlock walked up to the vehicle he started it up and left the scene. He was obviously waiting for other camouflage-clad SOF conventioners to enter the restaurant so that he could try his story on them.

Both officers agreed, based upon past experience, that their long-haired visitor was either an undercover informant or a BATF agent. His clumsy attempt at entrapment failed with two veteran police officers, but if they hadn't warned other SOF participants, it could have had tragic results.

sociated itself from the opinions expressed by Moore and that Moore had been asked to leave the convention.

Saturday Sidelights

From then on it was back on track for the SOFers and the convention. The press conference was actually a preamble to a wide-open, question-and-answer session on adventuring, soldiers of fortune, current political events and today's military — conducted by Brown, Maj. L.H. "Mike" Williams (former deputy commander of Grey's Scouts in Rhodesia), John Donovan (SOF's demolitions expert), Dana Drenkowski (a former SOF staffer and occasional free-lance pilot), Bill Brooks (former French Foreign legionnaire) and Alex McColl (head of the Parachute Medical Rescue Service, sponsored by SOF).

The question-and-answer session turned out to be so popular with the conventioners that it compelled SOF's Galen Geer to move his lecture on Afghanistan to Sunday morning because he, too, wanted to attend the session.

Later Saturday night, SOF hosted a barbeque at the Ray Chapman range, followed by a demonstration of laser-aimed weapons which turned out to be a show stopper.

Later still, some 40 to 70 SOFers — the number varied, depending on when and from whom you heard the story — led by former USMC Force Recon/SOG Bob Burton, trained by the Marines but part of SOG in 'Nam — participated in a recon-in-force visit to downtown Columbia, some-miles distance from the hotel.

The Columbians didn't know quite how to react to a platoon of cammie-clad, hard-talking, hard-drinking SOFers which marched from bar to bar at the signal of Burton's whistle. However, there were no casualties.

Sunday Summary

Sunday saw the conclusion of the convention, with the third day of the three-gun shooting contest, the final airborne operations and the last opportunity to visit the display of materials brought by exhibitors to the hall at the Chapman range. There was a wide variety of products — knives, military equipment, T-shirts, books, etc. — but the ones who had the most customers were probably the exhibitors who sold cammies. Quite a number of the press people who had shown up on Thursday prepared to hate SOFers were wearing their cammies by Sunday.

One of the most interesting shows of the whole convention came on Sunday when SOF Martial Arts Contributing Editor Bob Taylor, who was conducting knife-throwing demonstrations all three days, took on some of the shooters in a knife-vs.-gun contest.



The Louisiana 1st Airborne added color and color guards to the convention.



The press took a keen interest in the goings-on at the SOF convention.

TALL TALES FROM TASS

Because we knew our readers would enjoy it, we thought it would be interesting to see what Tass, the Russian government's wire service, had to say about our convention:

In shirts with inscriptions like "Worship War," "Happiness Is In Murder," with hands clutching at guns and rifles — this is how the U.S. press depicts today the professional gangsters and mercenaries ready at a moment's notice to rush to far-flung areas in order to kill and hang people, and overthrow legitimate governments. These people have converged on the town of Columbia (the state of Missouri) to take part in the first "Congress" organized by the magazine called "Soldiers of Fortune" which specializes in providing publicity for mercenaries. Henceforward, such gatherings are to be held on an annual basis.

For three days in a row, hundreds of professional assassins competed in shooting and in the art of using knives and daggers. In the breaks between shooting competitions they boasted of their "feats" during their foreign trips, and unblushingly named the number of "communists" killed by them. Discussions in the conference halls centered on plans to give assistance to gangs which are now responsible for bloody atrocities committed in Afghanistan, Zimbabwe and other countries.

Until recently, the holding of such a gathering in the United States would have been impossible because the U.S. legislation prohibits U.S. nationals from taking part, for pay, in military activities on the side of foreign govern-

ments. However, in conditions of a sharp build-up by Washington of the military psychosis in the country, open propaganda of violence and war is becoming the order of the day. "At present everything is okay," said one thug who has arrived for the "Congress" from the state of Oklahoma. In an interview with the *New York Times*, "The development of events prompts us that it's time to begin preparing for a war."

The magazine "Soldiers of Fortune" has published in a large-circulation booklet specifically for the gathering of the assassins. The booklet has a characteristic title: "The Technique of Intimidation."

The mercenaries can recruit the services of different experts in specialized armaments and tactics. Such as R. Proudlock, who is considered in the Michigan police a top-class "arm-twisting specialist," in assassinating Vietnamese patriots, as well as Major M. Williams, an "expert" on African affairs.

The pomp that characterized the reception accorded to the mercenaries in Columbia gives one the idea of influential forces behind the gathering. In the words of the *New York Daily News*, the mercenaries had at their disposal for three days the fashionable Hilton Hotel while the prize to the "Best Shooter" amounted, according to the *New York Times*, to a round sum of \$10,000.

The two major news outlets in Russia are Tass — which means news in English — and Pravda — which means truth. There is an old proverb in Russia which goes: "There is no news in Tass and no truth in Pravda."

Perhaps that should be changed around.

Taylor, who says he threw over 600 times during the three days, took on Bill Wilson (who placed fifth overall) and others. The rules of the face-off required Taylor to stand with his knife in hand and back to target while the shooters stood facing the target with holstered gun.

Against Wilson, Taylor won two, had two dead-heads and one was not judged. Some other shooters did better against the tiring Taylor, but he still won some and dead-headed with others.

Meet The Press

Although some SOFers were a bit put out by the press deluge, figuring that some were there with dubious motives, the press coverage the convention received was generally positive and favorable.

It gave SOFers a chance to say some things to a wide audience across the country and, to the delight of the press, they didn't often mince words.

A press sampler:

By Eric Miller, Dallas Morning News:

"You know, a lot of people call us whackos. But since my return from Rhodesia, I've discovered that the whackos are residing in the White House and the [U.S.] State Department. Our leaders have adopted the notion that it's better to live on your knees than die on your feet.

"I'm proud of zapping Communists all over the world. I'm proud to have partaken in that activity. You are brave mercenaries and brave men. One thing is always worth dying for — and that's freedom." A quote from Mike Williams.

By Covey Bean, The Daily Oklahoman:

"From the far corners of America and points overseas, strange men, some carrying guns in their baggage, knives on their belts and who-knew-what in their hearts, came to Columbia last weekend for the first-ever convention of *Soldier of Fortune*.

"That's the name of a curious military-adventure magazine published in Colorado by Col. Robert K. Brown, 47, who himself is something of a curiosity. In camouflage fatigues, bloused boots and a black leather jacket with ammo loops, Brown is so macho-military that even his mustache looks spit-shined."

By Sam Richardson, St. Louis Globe-Democrat:

"I'm here to be around some real men for a change, not like those pantywaists and pansies in the regular army," growled retired Marine Col. Brooke Nihart, a square-jawed, fiery-eyed conventioneer from Washington, D.C."

By W.S. Wilson, The Kansas City Star:

"One conventioneer, a Vietnam veteran, looked across the room crowded with camouflage from Rhodesia, Pakistan, Italy, the U.S. Army and England, as well as Sears and Roebuck. 'I got hit in 1967,' he said. 'I got out of Great Lakes [a



John Donovan delivers introductory message at banquet ceremonies.

Naval facility near Chicago] in 1968 on a pair of sticks. That was when the Chicago convention went crazy.

"'We didn't get kissed when we came back. That hurt. That hurt a lot.'"

By Tom Zito, The Washington Post:

"'Look,' he says, 'I did some merc work in Vietnam in 1960, but we're all really just armchair adventurers who suck up all these fantasies that *Soldier of Fortune* dishes out for \$24 a year. A lot of guys can't wait for the next issue to come out, but how many of these guys do you think can get away from the construction gig and the wife and kids to go crawling around in the jungle?'"

By Robert Charm, The Boston Globe:

"You probably think that we are just a bunch of nuts and whackos, but I think what we have here are idealists. They

believe in America. No one's supposed to do that anymore. We're supposed to feel guilty about everything this country ever did. But these guys, they believe in freedom, they say what they believe without any bullshit and they are willing to fight and die for it." Quoting an unnamed SOFer.

"Let Them Win"

By Covey Bean, The Daily Oklahoman:

"There's enough military experience in this room right now, that if you really wanted to put together a 'bad' outfit, this is the place. This is the cream.

"If they'd let them win, they'd probably still be in uniform. I'll tell you one thing, if we ever get involved in a conventional war, these will be the guys the com-



Col. Rex Applegate peruses book offerings in the exhibition hall at Ray Chapman range. Photo: H.C. Davis

puter in Washington will spit out.” Quoting SOFer Jim Resner.

By Gary Marshall, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*:

“An older couple, weary from a day’s drive on Interstate 70, seemed worried that they were about to spend the night at a hotel hosting a Soldier of Fortune convention. They asked the woman at the desk if there would be any problems staying there.

“‘No, ma’am,’ the woman replied. ‘They’re on our side.’”

New VFW

By Bob Schwabach, *Philadelphia Daily News*:

“After two days of getting to meet in public for the first time in their lives, about 50 so-called soldiers of fortune went downtown Saturday night to hit the bars. They marched three abreast down Broadway past the cinema that was playing ‘My Bodyguard,’ and this college town had never seen anything quite like it.

“Fifty men in camouflage suits represented less than a tenth of the number who had responded to a call from the fledgling *Soldier of Fortune* magazine to attend the first-ever convention of their profession. They came, and drew enough press to have covered the inauguration of a military junta in some banana republic. For the most part, the press was disappointed.

“What they wanted to see was a bunch of hard-bitten mercenaries reminiscing about firefights in the African jungle. There were a few of those, but for the

most part what they saw was a lot of guys from the Green Berets, Marines and paratroopers — all Vietnam veterans. This was their VFW, the first time and maybe the only condition under which they could now come out and look at each other and say they were proud to have been there.

“But where were the mercenaries, the real honest-to-god, guts-and-glory bush fighters who could light a cigarette and take a moment to wipe some dirt off their boots while being attacked by a thousand howling guerrillas? They were there, too.

“There were others who would gather in small groups at the bar, passing names and phone numbers, giving each other a quick nod and a handshake and talking about places like Bolivia and Colombia and South Africa where, as far as anyone knows, nothing of this sort is going on.”

By Robert Charm, *The Boston Globe*:

“The townspeople seem pleased to see the conventioners. Hotels and bars are filled, and except for one unfounded rumor that live dogs were going to be used in bayonet practice, the invasion has seemed to be no cause for distress.

“Said one old woman, smiling and laughing in denture-clicking delight at a fifth rendition of the Marine Corps hymn coming from the Hilton Bar: ‘It’s good to see young men in uniform again.’”

By Tom Zito, *The Washington Post*:

“In a real sense, they are the modern-day wild bunch, the old dreaming desperados rounded up for one last maneuver. They do not want to admit that there are no more frontiers, not even an Alaskan pipeline to conquer. Nor do they

want to acknowledge that many of their girths have expanded considerably since they returned to civilian life.

“But to see and listen to these men is to sense a part of America that is all but lost now, for good or bad; a sense of absolute commitment, a value in self-preservation and a belief in guns-and-butter economics.”

For The Cause

By Sam Richardson, *St. Louis Globe Democrat*:

“Milford Tatrow said he had driven all night Thursday to attend the convention. Dressed in fatigues and medals, he was a popular figure, relating how he had stepped on a 105mm North Vietnamese boobytrap that, he said with a smile, ‘zipped my legs right off’ in 1970.

“Conventioner John R. Scharff, 22, of Clayton, lost his right leg above the knee in a motorcycle accident while serving with the SeaBees. ‘I went for three years without being interested in anything after that accident. But this [convention] is something I can relate to,’ he said.”

By Brooke Nihart, *Armed Forces Journal*:

“They [SOFers] revealed that they were sober, reflective, up-front American fighting men who had fought well for their country and the cause of freedom, knew why they did it, and were ready to fight again for causes in which they believed.”

Hear, hear.



CAMBODIA'S THREE- WAY WAR

SOF Author Travels With The Troops

Text & Photos by Edward Rasen

While on assignment for ABC News, I spent almost two months in late 1979 and early 1980 traveling throughout Cambodia; another month in Thailand, mostly along the Thai-Cambodian border; and two weeks in Vietnam. I traveled with Thai army soldiers, anti-communist Khmer Serei guerrillas, nationalist Khmer Angkor guerrillas, Khmer Rouge guerrillas still loyal to Pol Pot, Khmer Rouge and Cambodian security forces loyal to the Heng Samrin-led government now ruling Cambodia, and main-force Vietnamese army combat units. I think it is the first and only time that an American journalist has traveled and reported the war from all sides. It may also be the first time that an American has officially traveled with Vietnamese army units.



Vietnamese army troops from Hanoi.

Heng Samrin honor guard, armed with Russian Simonov SL rifles (SKS), which fire 7.62x39 M43 rounds, wait for parade to form up in Phnom Penh.



Khmer Serei (free Khmer) guerrilla armed with AK-47 at Nong Samet camp along Thai border. Note hat with "Thai Land" written on peak.



Heng Samrin guard at Angkor Wat ruins armed with Chinese Type 56 rifle (notice permanently attached folding triangular bayonet). Soldier is wearing "January 7, 1979 Liberation" medal above right pocket, awarded to soldiers that toppled Pol Pot regime.





Despite varying political viewpoints, including pro- or anti-American sentiment, all the Cambodian-Khmer forces welcomed and encouraged me to visit and travel with them. Food and shelter were shared openly and without question. Unit commanders allowed me to travel freely throughout their tactical areas of responsibility (TAOR) and always provided soldiers for security. The Vietnamese would not let me travel in the extreme western areas of Cambodia, where they were battling Pol Pot-led Khmer Rouge forces – Vietnamese military and political officials feared international repercussions if I were killed or wounded while covering the fighting along the Thai-Cambodian border.

During the course of my travels along both sides of the border, I became involved in many unusual incidents. Several were unpleasant, because Thai soldiers did not want their activities reported.

Troop Movement

When I interviewed Prachak Sawangjit, deputy commander of the Thai 2nd Combined Force stationed along the border, he realized that the Pol Pot forces have troops inside Thailand, close to the Cambodian border. "Thailand's policy is to ask all parties crossing the border into Thai territory to lay down arms," he said. He admitted that it was difficult to enforce the policy since Thai forces only number about 5,000 along the border.

Thai military-intelligence officials claim the Vietnamese are moving over 30,000 combat troops and support personnel with armor and artillery to within five miles of Thailand in order to attack the Pol Pot-led Khmer Rouge (KR) guerrillas.

The KR guerrillas and leaders of "Angka," the radical-communist political organization that ruled Cambodia from 17 April 1975 to 7 January 1979, have established sanctuaries in the dense jungles of western Cambodia and the Cardamom mountain range that borders Thailand. The Pol Pot 1st Army Division is headquartered on the Cambodian border near Ban Nong Pru, Thailand, just south of Phnom Malai.

Since their fall in 1979, the KR have been receiving ammunition, foodstuffs and medical supplies from the Thai army, which in turn is being supplied by the United States. (During 1980, Thailand received a special \$400 million U.S. military-aid package in order to protect its

Khmer Angkor soldier (anti-Pol Pot, anti-Heng Samrin), armed with Chinese Type 56-1 assault rifle (China's folding-stock copy of Russian AK-47) and Chinese stick grenades, which generally use picric acid fillings.



border.) The KR are purchasing supplies from the Thais with money provided by the People's Republic of China.

China has also purchased over 100,000 tons of rice from Thailand, which it is openly supplying to the Pol Pot forces. "If Thailand needs arms to defend itself against potential Vietnamese aggression, China is willing to supply them," stated Chen Jie, China's vice-minister of trade. "China will help, not only in providing food, but also military materiel, so that Thailand may preserve its independence. We are going to help because it will be a just struggle." Ironically, China is also arming the Thai Communist Party guerrilla forces, now battling the Thai army in other parts of Thailand.

Aid or Sabotage

The official Cambodian government considers U.S. aid to Thailand for Cambodian refugee programs part of a plan to supply Pol Pot's remnant forces along the border of Thailand. Recent U.S. promises to provide an additional \$70 million to Thailand for Cambodian refugee centers is viewed as a "deliberate plan by the United States to sabotage the rebuilding of Cambodia," according to Hun Sen, Cambodia's minister for foreign affairs.

"The United States and Thailand continue to interfere in our internal affairs by providing aid to the Pol Pot forces, which murdered over 2 1/2 million of our people," he said in Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital. "We don't understand President Carter's so-called 'human-rights policy.' How can he talk about human rights and then support Pol Pot and Ieng Sary, who are responsible for the worst genocide in modern history and for the murder of U.S. citizens in Cambodia?"

While I was visiting KR supply camps inside Thailand, Thai soldiers in U.S. 2 1/2-ton trucks delivered five or six tons of rice to one of them. Unarmed female KR soldiers repacked and carried the 50-kilo sacks to KR military camps inside Cambodia. Comrade Thoun, a black-haired, skinny, 45-year-old Sino-Khmer was directing the resupply operation. Thoun, the KR area commander, agreed to escort me to the KR military camps.

As we walked along the trail to a rice warehouse, we passed hundreds of women carrying rice back to the camp.



ABOVE: Vietnamese 9th Division Armored Recovery Vehicle (ARV). Base for ARV is modified Russian T-54 or Chinese Type 59. In two-part cupola either the Vietnamese or Chinese have mounted 7.62mm machine gun to complement 12.7mm DShK anti-aircraft gun (note anti-aircraft sight on the 12.7mm). Vehicle also has mounted jib crane, probably used to tow stuck vehicles.

Thoun said, "It takes the porters another one or two days to move the rice to the troops fighting the Vietnamese." At the warehouse, we did not see any Thai army troops or representatives of any international organizations.

Thoun explained that an informal arrangement had been worked out with the Thai military: the Pol Pot army could send unarmed porters into Thailand to pick up supplies.

The rice warehouses and the presence of Thai troops in Cambodia confirm unofficial remarks made by a U.S. State Department official in Aranyaprathet — the center for all military and relief aid for the area — that the Thai government is using the Pol Pot troops to create a buffer zone, and using the situation to solicit additional military and financial aid from the U.S.

Thoun, a Marxist intellectual who studied at the Sorbonne in Paris and lived in Europe from 1959 to 1969, joined the Khmer Rouge in 1972. He wholeheartedly supported the actions and the social reorganization initiated by Pol Pot, Ieng Sary and Khiev Samphan — the Cambodian intellectuals inspired by former Chinese premier Mao Tse Tung's Cultural Revolution. Thoun spoke with pride about the elimination of money from his society and of the state's provision of the means of life



Author Edward Rasen holds Soviet RPG-7 rocket launcher with PG-7 82mm grenade.

for its people. He dismissed reports of mass murders and placed all blame on Vietnam.

Thoun, a former ministerial charge d'affaires in the Angka government, declared, "It is not a matter of politics anymore. It is a matter of survival. The Pol Pot troops will fight until death because they will be killed if captured."

Continued on page 55

Vietnamese 9th Division soldiers atop Russian T-54 tank. Note Russian DShK 12.7mm heavy machine gun.





Thirteen-year-old Khmer Serel fights with AKM at guerrilla base in Cambodia's Battambang Province.

HANOI'S HIT LIST

Is Thailand Next?

Text & Photos by Robert J. Caldwell

AMERICANS who served in Vietnam and took their R&R in Thailand no doubt remember the Kingdom of Siam as a tranquil oasis light years away from the death struggle back in 'Nam.

Things have changed. Indochina's new war — actually a continuation of the first two — is spilling over into Thailand and threatening to add this U.S. ally to Hanoi's hit list.

The flash point is the Thai-Cambodian border where Vietnamese "Bo-Doi" and troopers of the Royal Thai Army face each other across a harrowing no-man's land populated by refugees, smugglers, bandits and thousands of Cambodian guerrillas.

Now that the dry season has begun, the news from this corner of the world is likely to get a lot worse before it gets better.

My own tour of the border began with a four-hour taxi ride from Bangkok to Aranyaprathet, a dingy district capital five kilometers from the Cambodian frontier.

For most of the way, the scenery offered no hint of the turmoil along the border. Thailand is prosperous by the standards of Southeast Asia and the long ride east from Bangkok yielded peaceful

vistas of scattered villages, lush rice paddies and farmers working their land behind water buffaloes or motorized tillers.

Ghost Camp

The reverie ended abruptly 20 kilometers west of Aranyaprathet. A huge water tower just off the highway marked

the site of the abandoned Sa Kao refugee camp. Sa Kao once housed 70,000 Cambodians, nearly all Khmer Rouge. Some had been moved to other camps, others had returned to Cambodia. All that remained was a 40-acre compound littered with debris and the stark frames of bamboo huts.

I remembered the photographs taken at Sa Kao of starving children, their eyes staring from aged faces. It was here that the Khmer Rouge had lashed an emaciated, 11-year-old boy to a cross for stealing a handful of rice. And it was here that Rosalynn Carter had wept tears of shock and pity.

Even devoid of refugees, Sa Kao was haunting — an eerie ghost town ringed with barbed wire.

Pushing on, we passed the base camp of the Thai army's 4th Armored Regiment and, a few kilometers beyond, the field headquarters of the 1st Division. The Thais had been digging in along the border ever since the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia and they clearly expected trouble. Unit perimeters featured camouflaged bunkers and concertina wire. At the 4th Armored base camp, M41 and M48 tanks sited to cover the highway

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert J. Caldwell's 1966-67 Vietnam stint included service with the 272nd Military Police Company assigned to II Corps headquarters in Nha Trang. He was briefly attached to the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division operating in Phu Yen Province and subsequently participated in Operations Irving and Thayer with units of the 1st Air Cavalry Division in Binh Dinh Province.

Caldwell is now an editorial writer and reporter for the *San Diego Union*. He has written extensively on political and military developments in Southeast Asia.

sat hull-down behind earthen embankments.

Border Town Blues

Aranyaprathet, thriving off the big bucks of the refugee industry, nevertheless turned out to be no haven for the casual tourist. The best of its three ramshackle hotels lacked nearly every imaginable amenity, including, on occasion, electricity.

There was one nightspot — the Aran Cafe — one cinema, one bank, a post office, hospital, border customs post (closed for obvious reasons) and the usual jumble of noodle shops and sidewalk vendors.

The 20,000 locals feigned indifference to the war just across the border. But they could hardly forget: Aranyaprathet was crawling with Thai soldiers in battle fatigues, and darkness often brought the muffled boom of Vietnamese artillery shelling Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

Aranyaprathet sits in what is known as the Wathana Gap, the forested flatlands that stretch along the Cambodian border from the foothills of the Cardamom Mountains in the south to the Dangrek Range in the north — a distance of just over 100 kilometers. It is a natural invasion route into Thailand and offers the fewest natural obstructions for Cambodian refugees seeking food and sanctuary on the Thai border.

Human Leftovers

In late 1979 and early 1980, more than half-a-million Cambodians reached the border one step ahead of famine and the Vietnamese army.

Nearly 200,000 had then been transferred to "holding centers" inside Thailand. The Thai government, already burdened with several hundred thousand Laotian and Vietnamese refugees, refused to grant permanent sanctuary to the Cambodians. They were classified as illegal aliens, which left the Thais the option of repatriating them.

Many of those not accepted for transfer to **holding centers** drifted back into Cambodia.

The remainder, perhaps 200,000, lingered along the border in camps and resistance bases controlled either by the Khmer Rouge or by anti-communist groups who call themselves Khmer Serei (Free Cambodians).

To work the border, I needed transportation, an interpreter and someone who knew which back road led from point A to point B. Sing, a Thai stringer for Kyodo news service, offered himself and his Ford pickup for 500 baht (\$25) per day, plus gas. Deal.

Roughly speaking, the Khmer Serei were dominant north of Aranyaprathet while the Khmer Rouge were operating from border bases further south.

It didn't take long to discover that the Khmer Serei areas resembled one big Dodge City. The anti-communists were split into a bewildering maze of factions, each competing for control of the camps and the lucrative black-market trade flourishing on both sides of the border.

Lethal little fire fights involving rival groups of Khmer Serei guerrillas, freelance bandits and black marketeers were routine. During the first half of 1980, there were pitched battles between hundreds of guerrillas for control of the sprawling refugee shantytowns that straddled the border.

In subsequent months things had quieted down, but the International Red Cross medical teams that visited the camps were still evacuating 20 to 30 wounded guerrillas and civilians each week.

The guerrillas also, of course, had to worry about the Vietnamese. Last June, several Khmer Serei camps were overrun by Vietnamese infantry and hundreds of Cambodians were killed or wounded. Everybody knew it could happen again at any time.

The guerrillas recognized that they were no match for the heavily armed and vastly larger Vietnamese forces.

The typical Khmer Serei soldier was a teenager toting a beat-up M16 or AK-47. Training was haphazard or nonexistent and ammunition was in pathetically short supply. As for heavy weapons, I saw only one — a new Chinese-model 75mm recoilless rifle — during visits to Nong Chan and Nong Samet, the two largest Khmer Serei camps.

All this helped explain the fierce competition for control of the black-market trade along the border. The weapons and ammunition that had to be purchased on the Thai black market didn't come cheap. For the guerrillas, the only answer was to cut themselves in on the illicit flow of Thai goods into Cambodia. Some of this commerce involved international relief supplies.

The Price of Survival

Armchair moralists will condemn this from the comfort and safety of their living rooms. But Cambodians lucky enough to have survived the holocaust of the last 10 years might be forgiven for having developed a less refined code of self-preservation.

The Khmer Serei at Nong Chan were eager to arrange an interview for me with Kong Sileah, the 45-year-old former naval officer who commanded the camp and served as president of MOULINAKA, the Movement for the National Liberation of Kampuchea.

Kong Sileah had been deep inside Cambodia checking on his guerrillas operating around the Tonle Sap — the Great Lake 130 kilometers east of the Thai border.

His base of operations was a guerrilla



Anti-communist Cambodian guerrillas with AKM rifles — members of "Movement for the National Liberation of Kampuchea." Photo taken at Nong Chan on Cambodian side of border.

camp just over the border in Cambodia and adjacent to the main refugee settlement at Nong Chan.

Kong Sileah was a bit vague on the precise number of guerrillas fielded by MOULINAKA, but he said his forces were organized into three "brigades." An intelligence contact in Bangkok later scoffed at that and guessed that Kong Sileah might have enough men to form three brigade headquarters.

A Pledge To Fight

Whatever his real strength, Kong Sileah was candid enough to admit that the third of his forces operating behind Vietnamese lines were accomplishing little more than nuisance raids, a fact he attributed to a chronic shortage of arms and especially ammunition.

Still, he pledged to fight on for however long it took to persuade the Vietnamese that Cambodia wasn't worth the candle.



When I happened upon the spanking-new recoilless rifle, the Khmer Serei officer instructing a platoon in its use left no doubt that photographs were forbidden.

Either these guerrillas were making a fortune on the black market or they were getting help from the Thais. I guessed the latter.

Clue number one was that the Khmer Serei at Nong Samet were advertising their support for the Sereikar, otherwise known as the Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

A hand-lettered sign, in English, near the entrance to the camp proclaimed: "We support the policy of neutral liberty and Buddhism." Notwithstanding the garbled syntax, it was a reasonable facsimile of the Sereikar program.

Sereikar And Human Rights

The Khmer People's National Liberation Front, formed from the 1979 union of five Khmer Serei groups, is the closest thing anti-communist Cambodians have to a broadly based political movement capable of rallying a solid majority of the population. The KPNLF platform advocates scrupulous respect for human rights, a return to Buddhism and traditional Cambodian values and a neutral foreign policy backed by international guarantees once the Vietnamese withdraw or are driven from Cambodia.

Last April, the Sereikar were sufficiently well organized to conduct a clandestine "national congress" in northwestern Cambodia. Representatives from all but two of the country's provinces were present.

Son Sann, a respected former adviser and prime minister in the pre-1970 government of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, was selected as president of the KPNLF, and the front's military forces were placed under the command of Gen. Dien Del, a highly regarded officer who served both Sihanouk and Lon Nol.

The best estimates — the Sereikar themselves declined comment — placed the military strength of the KPNLF at between 5,000 and 10,000 guerrillas operating from a dozen bases, many of them in northwestern Cambodia.

It was no secret in Bangkok that the Thai government looked with favor on the Sereikar movement. Likewise, it was universally assumed that the Sereikar received arms, and probably training as well, from the Thai army.

Naturally, the Thais denied this, as did the Sereikar representative in Bangkok. There were, after all, seven Vietnamese divisions within striking distance of the Thai border.

Thus the reluctance of the Khmer Serei officer at Nong Samet to have his recoilless rifle photographed. The likely existence of a covert aid program to the Sereikar would also explain the Thai army's refusal to allow foreign journalists to enter border areas south of Nong Samet



Thai infantry patrol carries U.S.-made M16s on stretch of road less than one kilometer from Cambodian border.

Sadly, Kong Sileah won't be around to savor victory if it ever comes. Six weeks after I interviewed him, he was dead — a victim of cerebral malaria. The leadership of MOULINAKA passed to one of his lieutenants, 47-year-old Chea Chuth.

The Khmer Serei forces at Nong Samet, a border camp about 15 kilometers north of Nong Chan, appeared to be marginally better equipped than their counterparts under Kong Sileah.

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Weapons — the usual assortment of M16s, AK-47s, M79s, RPG-7s, and B-40s — were newer. Ammunition was more plentiful and perhaps half of the guerrillas sported relatively new jungle fatigues suspiciously similar to those issued by the Thai army.

that were controlled by the KPNLF.

Officially, the Thai army also prohibited visits by foreign journalists to Khmer Rouge bases on Cambodian soil south of Aranyaprathet. But that didn't preclude junior officers at remote border outposts from taking a less rigid view of things.

Even so, the infantry lieutenant Sing and I jawboned one drizzly afternoon insisted on keeping my camera and almost everything else I had as insurance for a prompt return. I remember hoping that the Khmer Rouge would be no less concerned about my welfare.

New Party Line

Beginning last March, the Khmer Rouge leadership had gone to considerable lengths to persuade the West, and the Cambodian people, that the old policies of Marxist revolution enforced by mass murder on a genocidal scale had been abandoned. Pol Pot was a butcher, but he wasn't stupid. He and others in the Khmer Rouge high command — the infamous "Angka" — knew that their movement was doomed unless it received sustaining transfusions of outside support.

The new Khmer Rouge pitch was that all Cambodians should forget the past and unite in the struggle against the common enemy — Vietnam. In exchange for this united front, Pol Pot, Ieng Sary and Khiev Samphan promised piously to support proposals for U.N.-supervised elections and a genuinely democratic government for Cambodia. *Viola*, a new day!

Apparently, the KRers at Khlong Wha that afternoon hadn't gotten the word on the new policy of sweetness and light. The people Sing and I encountered as we crossed a bamboo footbridge and strolled into the jungle camp were sullen and hostile.

The Survivors

Khlong Wha's population seemed to consist mostly of women, a few children and middle-aged men. Among the Khmer Rouge, virtually every able-bodied male between the ages of 14 and 40 had been pressed into service as a resistance fighter against the Vietnamese. And, of course, few senior citizens survived in the Cambodia of Pol Pot.

Despite the work parties tending the camp's patches of cultivated land or erecting new bamboo-frame structures, the place was deathly silent. No one talked — to us or each other.

People stared as we passed. Smiles were not returned.

Suddenly, a young Khmer Rouge soldier, dressed in faded, Chinese-style fatigues and wearing the Mao cap favored by Pol Pot's forces, stepped onto the trail behind us and announced his presence with a shout.

Sing explained that we had come to see

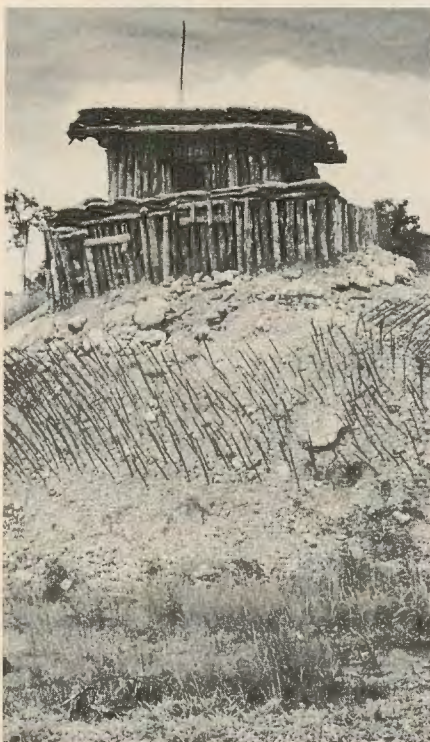
the camp commander.

Without a word, the guerrilla led us to a small compound atop a knoll. Presently, two men emerged from a nearby hut — an interpreter in his 20s and Khlong Wha's commissar, a 47-year-old political officer named Hep Sou.

Army Of Charles Mansons

Someone once likened the Khmer Rouge to an army of Charles Mansons. Hep Sou fit the part: he had a stare that could have cracked granite.

I spent the next 10 minutes nervously explaining why I had failed to obtain written permission to enter Cambodia from Pech Bunret, Pol Pot's shadowy diplo-



Thai army outpost near Cambodian border protected by punji sticks and sandbags.

matic representative in Bangkok. In fact, I hadn't bothered because Bunret was known to keep journalists waiting for months — only to deny their applications.

But Hep Sou would not have liked that explanation, so I told him that my efforts to reach Bunret had been in vain.

I was relieved when it became apparent that this oversight was not a killing offense.

Portions of the ensuing interview were pure newspeak. In response to one delicately worded question, for example, Hep Sou summarily dismissed reports of human-rights violations during the Khmer Rouge regime as nothing more than "inventions of Vietnamese propaganda."

He was somewhat more forthcoming on the military situation. He reported the total number of Khmer Rouge guerrillas

as 60,000 — only double the accepted estimate among Thai and American intelligence officers.

Hep Sou explained that most of the Khmer Rouge army was organized into 10-man guerrilla teams sent into the interior with orders to kill at least an equal number of Vietnamese before the end of the rainy season.

While most of the Khmer Rouge were indeed fighting as guerrillas, the string of border bases south of Aranyaprathet, including Khlong Wha, had to be permanently defended against Vietnamese attacks. The border bases were essential as collection points and conduits for humanitarian aid — foodstuffs and medicines — and the arms paid for by China and smuggled across the border while Thai authorities looked the other way.

So, a few kilometers east of Khlong Wha, about 2,000 Khmer Rouge infantry were clinging to a range of rugged, jungle-covered hills of which the dominant peak was known as Phnom Malai Mountain.

Successive Vietnamese regiments, backed by tanks and artillery, had been trying for eight months to take Phnom Malai. But the Khmer Rouge were still there, and Hep Sou insisted that the Vietnamese would continue to fail because the guerrillas kept cutting the one road available to the attackers to supply their assault forces.

He also attributed the sluggish performances of the Vietnamese to a soaring malaria rate and the reluctance of drafted South Vietnamese to fight in Hanoi's cause. That concurred with what I had heard elsewhere.

Hep Sou and a political cadre I later interviewed at the Khmer Rouge camp of Khlong Mai Thorn offered convincingly graphic accounts of the effects of poison gas used by the Vietnamese — nausea, vomiting of blood, loss of motor control, coma, death.

But then, the Khmer Rouge were no slouches in the killing department either.

In short, a thoroughly dirty war.

The Thais were trying desperately to keep this unholy mess on the Cambodian side of the border. As Bangkok saw it, the guerrillas — communist and anti-communist alike — were the last buffer between an unprepared Thailand and aggressors the Thais view as the Prussians of Southeast Asia.

Waiting Out The Rain

Nearly everyone I spoke to anticipated one or more Vietnamese offensives aimed at crushing the guerrillas along the border once the rains ended in December. If the guerrillas simply fall back into Thailand, it's an even bet that the Vietnamese will follow. What happens then is anyone's guess.

Continued on page 82



ABOVE: Militia from Stung Treng Province on parade in Phnom Penh. Men are armed with M16 rifles.

CAMBODIA

Continued from page 50

I met Thoun near Ban Nong Pru, in Thailand — a village approximately 25 kilometers south of Aranyaprathet, where National Highway 5 links Thailand and

BELOW: Youthful Heng Samrin provincial soldier armed with American M16 and two Chinese stick grenades.



Cambodia. Dirt roads and trails run along the border. In a few places, Chinese army trucks bearing Khmer Rouge military markings lie abandoned. Slowly advancing Vietnamese army units have pushed the Khmer Rouge back to the Thai border.

Several kilometers to the east, a narrow river serves as the border. At one point, a small bridge, made of two downed trees, links Thailand with Cambodia. While we were walking toward the bridge, Thai soldiers dressed in camouflage "tiger" suits and carrying U.S.-supplied M16s, M60s and M79s, walked through the elephant grass on another trail. They neither stopped nor acknowledged our presence.

Crossing into Cambodia, I saw a group of soldiers gathered along the trail. I began filming, and through the telephoto lens I saw several wooden ammunition crates. Some soldiers pointed and ran toward Thoun and me. They pushed my camera aside and jabbed M16s against my chest and back. All the soldiers were Thai, with Thai army insignias on their uniforms.

I showed them my passport and kept saying, "American, United States." The Thais knocked the passport to the ground, grabbed my movie camera and opened it.

A Thai army sergeant was yelling and screaming at Thoun. When he stopped, Thoun called to several young, black-clad KR guerrillas, who ran to replace the soldiers holding me. After more shouting, Thoun bowed his head to the Thai troops and ordered the KR soldiers to take

me into the woods. After walking several hundred meters deeper into Cambodia, the young guerrillas pushed me to the ground and started firing. A few minutes later, Thoun appeared, helped me to my feet, ordered one of the soldiers to give me some water and led me several miles along the trail away from Thailand.

Thoun said the Thais had ordered him to kill me and warned him not to bring another journalist to the camps. He said he did not like the Thais, but the KR needed their help in order to fight the Vietnamese. Thoun said he was grateful to the U.S. for its support of Pol Pot forces at the United Nations. (Ironically, the Pol Pot-led Khmer Rouge was violently anti-U.S. when they ruled Cambodia, and as recently as January 1979 murdered U.S. civilians captured from boats off the Cambodian coast.)

At Pol Pot 1st Army Headquarters we met Comrade Som, Thoun's deputy, who also expressed gratitude to the United States for supporting the Pol Pot forces — especially at the United Nations. The Carter administration went to the UN in October 1979 and, in concert with its new-found friend, China, asked the international community to recognize and seat the deposed Pol Pot regime rather than the Vietnamese-supported Heng Samrin government.

Comrade Som said, "There are almost 60,000 Pol Pot supporters within 10 miles of the headquarters camp."

Inside the camp, the majority of the 1,000 soldiers present were Mitr Naree — women and young girls dressed in black trousers and shirts, the uniform of the Pol Pot army. They huddled under plastic shelters, their multi-colored headscarves, used to carry rice, making bright splashes against the sombre background of their uniforms.

Some of the soldiers in the camp carried weapons. The majority of the wounded and diseased Pol Pot soldiers had been carried by their families into Thai refugee camps during the previous weeks.

In fact, one of the ironies of the war and the relief aid and supplies provided by international agencies such as International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the UN, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and World Vision, is that in the border areas large numbers of Pol Pot army troops are being treated. Since the troops leave their weapons with comrades inside Cambodia, it is difficult to refuse them treatment.

The military and political situation



ABOVE: Heng Samrin unit of female nurses on parade in Phnom Penh. Two women in front are armed with AK-47 rifles.

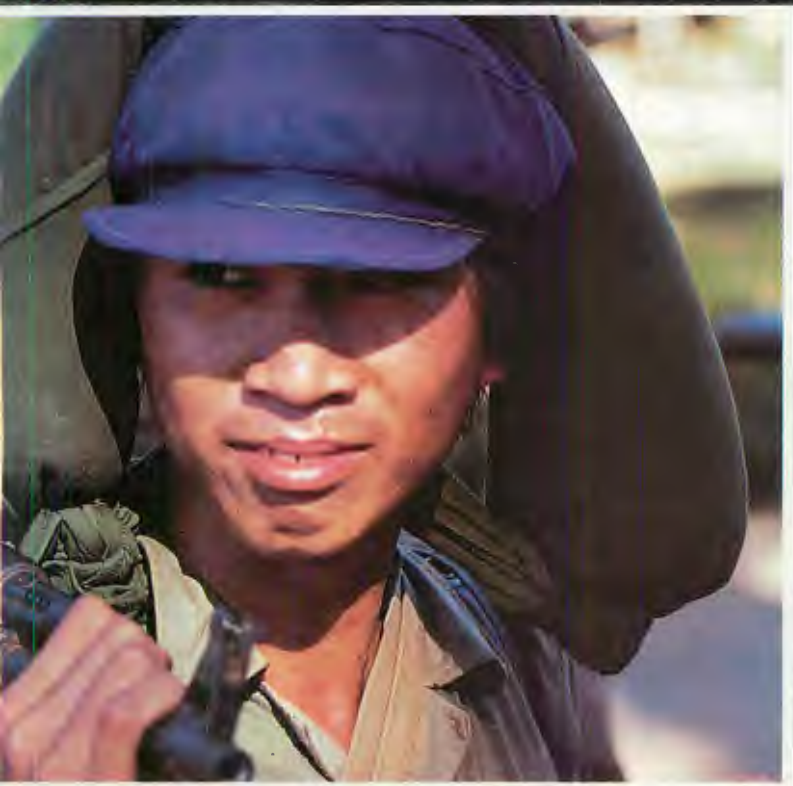
LEFT: Khmer girl from Stung Treng Province in northern Cambodia, near Laos.





LEFT: Cambodian soldier loyal to Heng Samrin government, fighting with Vietnamese army near Am Leang, carries sack of rice on head and AK-47.

BELOW: Female security militia from Stung Treng and Dratie Provinces during parade in Phnom Penh on 7 January 1980 celebrating first anniversary of Heng Samrin government. Women in front are carrying AK-47 rifles.





LEFT: Vietnamese army soldiers in provincial capital of Battambang. Note soldiers' light green NVA sun helmets, erroneously termed "pith helmets" by Americans during Vietnam war. Soldiers have relatively rare circular metal insignia with five-pointed gold star on red enameled background edged with gold wreath of rice stalks.

along the Thai border is ever-changing and therefore confusing. Thais battle Vietnamese. Vietnamese battle Khmer Rouge. Khmer Rouge battle Khmer Serei. Khmer Serei battle Khmer Angkor. Alliances shift daily, and the Thais politically exploit the situation with the help of the U.S. embassy in Bangkok.

I found the Thai army the most difficult to deal with. It is very corrupt. Many Thai commanders and soldiers are exploiting the situation along the border for their own personal gain. Ammunition and food supplies are sold to all Cambodian guerrilla forces without regard to politics.

In late 1979 and throughout 1980 the Thai army allowed black markets to operate along the border. Unofficial taxes are levied on Cambodians who visit the markets. Rapes of Cambodian women by Thai soldiers are reported by the refugees.

During November 1979, following an alleged rape, some anti-communist Khmer Serei guerrillas beat several Thai soldiers who supposedly were responsible for the crime. That day, the Thais closed the black market near the Khmer Serei camp at Nong Samet. I happened to be filming events at the market when armed Thai soldiers closed the operation. They also tried to prevent me from filming their presence.

Back in Bangkok that night, I told another ABC News producer and his cameraman about the day's events. The next day, he and his crew, and an NBC-News crew, visited the Khmer Serei camp near Nong Samet. During their visit, the camp

was shelled by mortars and a number of refugees were killed and wounded. All the members of both news teams said the shelling had come from Thailand.

The next day, the Thai government and the U.S. embassy issued press releases stating that the Vietnamese had shelled the refugee camp. That night, both ABC and NBC sent reports via satellite to their evening news network shows in New York

BELOW: Heng Samrin provincial in SDF (Self Defense Forces) armed with M16 rifle (note top of Chinese stick grenade protruding from belt).



which accused the Thai army of shelling the camps.

That same evening, Peter Collins, the CBS News correspondent heading operations in Thailand at the time, took the press releases and reread the accusations against the Vietnamese during the Walter Cronkite show. Neither Collins nor anyone else from CBS had been to the border during the previous several days. Neither the Vietnamese nor the Cambodians let Collins visit their countries.

When I visited the country, the brunt of fighting in western Cambodia by Vietnamese forces was borne by two main-force 4th Corps divisions – the 7th and the 431st. The two units were part of the relief force which helped the Vietnamese 9th Division break out of encirclement by Pol Pot units east of Kompong Channg.

The 431st, a relatively new division, first appeared in the Vietnamese order of battle in late 1976. In early 1980, it was skirmishing with Khmer Rouge and Khmer Serei resistance groups operating west of Highway 69, between Svay Chek, 15 miles north of Sisophon, and the Vietnamese garrison at Samrong. At Samrong, the 302nd Division was blocking and moving north. (The Viets call the 302nd the 72nd.)

The 7th Division, a former Viet Cong unit decimated during the 1968 Tet offensive and later rebuilt with northern troops, was slowly pushing back the 8,000 to 12,000 Khmer Rouge guerrillas occupying the rugged 60-mile strip along the Thai border, between Poipet on Highway 5 and the former gem-mining town of Pailin to the southeast.

At Pailin, the 309th Division was blocking north of the town. The 309th is also called the 59th and was on temporary additional duty from the 5th M.R. in northeast Cambodia.

Protecting Poipet (site of the 4th Corps "battlefront HQ") was the Vietnamese 5th Division, also referred to as the 75th (adopting the number of the military region).

Attached to each division was a border-security regiment, the latter utilized mostly to guard bridges and

other static security duties.

A sixth division, the 310th, which was a main-force unit in Vietnam during the war, was stationed at Kompong Cham and later moved to the 7th Military Region HQ at Siem Reap with one regiment assigned to the Poipet-Nimit area where it replaced a Cambodian-militia unit.

Additionally, at least two Dac Cong special-operations units were conducting long-range reconnaissance patrols along the Thai border. One unit was operating in the heavy jungle north of Pailin, and another 300-man force had patrols operating south of the Phnom Malai mountain stronghold directly opposite Ta Prik and Gai Thau — the two points on the Thai border where 60,000 Pol Pot followers crossed into Thailand in October 1979.

The Dac Cong units were used primarily to identify supply routes, mine secondary trails and pinpoint Khmer Rouge concentrations. During January 1980, the Vietnamese units had the Khmer Rouge pushed into a four-mile-wide corridor west of Phnom Malai and east of the Thai border.

General Van Tien Dung, chief architect of Hanoi's 1975 victory, was commander-in-chief of Vietnamese forces in Cambodia. He is known for detailed planning and strong logistical support.

Whenever I met Vietnamese army soldiers, they assumed I was French. When they learned I was an American, they would often stare in fascination. The young, combat infantry troops treated me like a movie star; the officers and NCOs who had fought against the U.S. were completely bewildered by my presence, but most took a liking to me quickly.

When I visited Kompong Cham, today a major supply-distribution point for international agencies such as UNICEF, ICRC and OXFAM, as well as the Vietnamese army, Vietnamese soldiers provided security for the city, the roads and the river ferries.

Kompong Cham in eastern Cambodia is situated along the Mekong River and National Highway 7. The city was a major trading port during the French-colonial era; toward Vietnam to the east are Chup, Tapao and Mimot, some of the largest natural rubber plantations in the world.

During 1970, U.S. and South Vietnamese troops invaded Cambodia and battled Khmer Rouge, North Vietnamese and Viet Cong units which were using the

plantations as sanctuaries. During December 1979, Vietnamese and anti-Pol Pot Cambodian forces invaded Cambodia and battled Khmer Rouge forces entrenched in those plantations.

Kompong Cham and Kompong Cham Province have been devastated both by the fighting and by U.S. bombing. When the Paris Peace Agreement ended the bombing of Vietnam and Laos in 1973, the might of the entire U.S. Seventh Air Force was turned against Cambodia. The bombing was so intense that, at one stage, 81 B-52s were flying daily raids — against Vietnam the maximum had been 60 per day. During the first half of 1973, more than 250,000 tons of bombs were dropped on Cambodia; on Japan during all of WWII the United States dropped 160,000 tons of bombs.

On one of my trips I headed east from Kompong Cham to Chup, ferrying across the Mekong with a Vietnamese army unit in a Chinese T-54 tank. The Vietnamese commander was a rugged, old, battle-scarred veteran who had spent eight years fighting against the U.S. and South Vietnamese forces. The tank crew and infantry troops were kids who had been in Cambodia for just over six months.

I was wearing a U.S. jungle-fatigue shirt, jungle boots, camouflage silk scarf and Levi jeans, and standing with the commander next to the turret. He was pointing out various battlesites along the river. As our ferry approached the opposite bank, the tank commander put his arm around my shoulder and one of his crew took a picture.

Near the landing point, 50 to 60 Vietnamese infantry troops were waiting. They jabbed each other and pointed toward the tank, eyes bulging and mouths open in utter amazement. As the tank disembarked, I jumped off, waved to the crew and walked into town with the infantry troops I'd arrived with. Our welcoming party was shocked into silence.

Cambodian peasants and children ran alongside us, yelling and pointing at me. I think my presence was the final blow to their sensibilities. The war had never made much sense to them, but an American, traveling with a Vietnamese army combat unit inside Cambodia, was beyond their comprehension.

But then again, I'm not sure that even I completely comprehend the significance of my travels with the Vietnamese. How probable is it after

15 years of Americans fighting and dying in Vietnam, that a U.S. journalist from a U.S. television network would travel with the Vietnamese army and report the war in Cambodia?

As they used to say in 'Nam, "That's far out."



SOF INTERVIEWS CAMBODIAN SECURITY OFFICERS

Nick Uhernik, a Denver-area policeman who spent three years in Southeast Asia as an Army MP (see "Toughest Beat in the World," SOF, August '79, "Battle of Blood," SOF, October '79, "Snatched from Death's Jaws," SOF, December '79, "Saigon's Deadly Streets," SOF, April '80, and "Gunfight at Fort Hustler," SOF, August '80), is a regional volunteer for the Catholic Vietnamese Resettlement Program (CVRP) in Denver. During his follow-up studies of Indochinese resettlement in the Denver area for the CVRP, he learned that a local security firm had hired more than 50 former Cambodian soldiers to guard construction sites throughout the metropolitan area.

Uhernik was able to interview two of the company's guards — both former militia men in Cambodia: 21-year-old Phalkun Chea and 48-year-old Cham Oun. Both men were born and raised in Battambang. Chea was a part-time student who spent most of his time in the local militia and was in charge of its youth group. Cham was a police sergeant before the communist takeover. In many ways, they are typical of the population that was rounded up and marched into the jungle.

SOF: What happened after your escape and do you know the fate of your relatives?

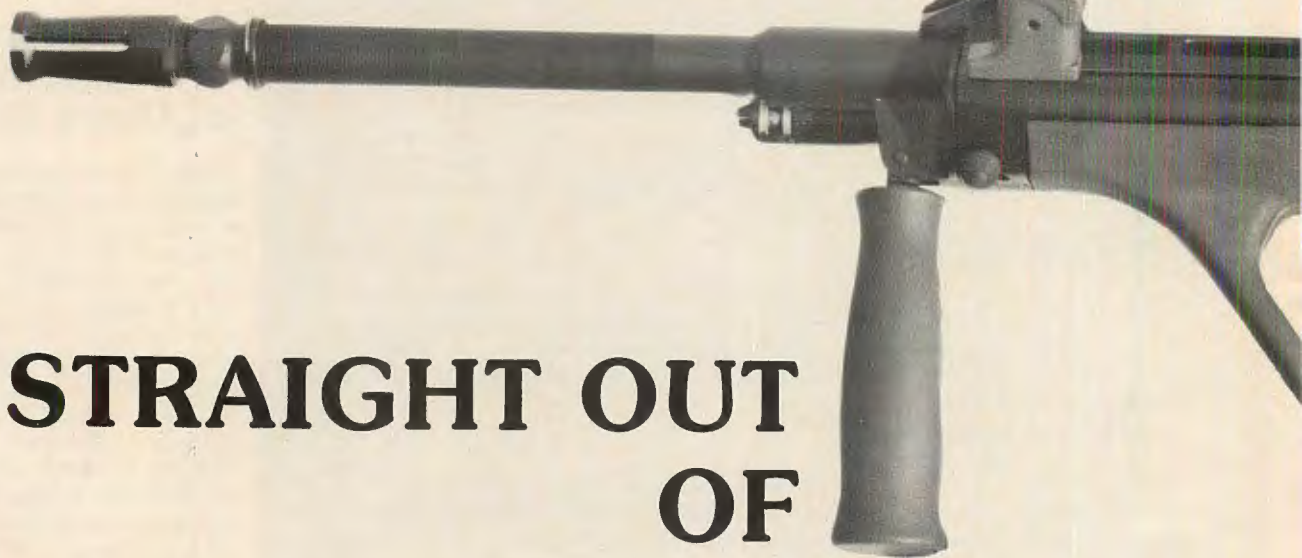
CHEA: We were not part of the "boat people." After spending two months in two separate camps in Thailand, I was flown to the resettlement camp at Camp Pendleton Marine Base in California, where I spent two months before coming to Denver. That was in 1975.

I have no complaints about the refugee camps. My uncle was killed during our escape attempt, and my aunt was lost in the jungle. We have not heard from her since. My family remained behind in Cambodia when the country fell to the Khmer Rouge.

CHAM: I spent 11 months in Thailand before coming to Houston, Texas,

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Steyr-Mannlicher AUG Is



**STRAIGHT OUT
OF**

STAR WARS

by Bob Poos

ODD-LOOKING weapons aren't all that unusual around the SOF office, but when Mail Foreman Reggie Houlihan saw this one, he remarked, "I've seen a lot of funny stuff around here, but this is straight out of *Star Wars*."

He was talking about Steyr-Mannlicher's Army Universal Gun (AUG for short) and he made the comment before reading Jeff Cooper's recent column on the weapon ("Sharpshooting with Chairman Jeff," January '81, p. 30).

Since Cooper has covered in depth the technical aspects of the AUG, this story will deal only with the reactions to it of some of the SOF staff who are not authorities in the automatic-weapons field.

In-house people who examined and fired the piece were myself, Art Director Craig Nunn and Photographer Cynthia Kite.

My experience with hand-held automatic weapons is limited to the BAR (which I cleverly avoided being required to carry while in the Marines), the M2 Carbine, Tommy Gun, the M16 and the Ruger Mini-14. I've shot all of them — at inanimate targets only — and am an authority on none of them nor any other auto weapon. But like people going through an art gallery, I may not know what is good but I know what I like.

The same is true of Nunn and Kite. Craig had fired the M16 in the Army and the Sidewinder and Mini-14 as an SOF staffer. Kite had never shot a firearm in her life — not even a .22 single-shot.

Mixed Reactions

Being a traditional sort — I hated to see the Marines lose their beloved M14s in Vietnam — my first reaction was a mixture of awe and repugnance. But I soon

became a convert, at least so far as this type of weapon is concerned. Like Jeff Cooper, I am still a devotee of aimed rifle fire at 500 yards or more. That's how the Marines stopped the Germans in 1917, how they defeated the Japanese on Guadalcanal and how they helped push the North Koreans up to the Chosen Reservoir in 1950.

But for an assault carbine, this weapon seems to me to be the top of the line. Nunn agrees and Kite likes it too.

First a little history on the gun and how one of them turned up in the SOF Boulder office.

Back in 1970, the Austrian army decided it needed a new weapon. Up to then, it had been using as its standard shoulder arm the STG 58, a version of the FN-FAL.

Army ordnance officers specified several requirements including: an easily interchangeable barrel that at the same



time would keep maintenance costs down and permit a variety of barrel lengths; a shorter weapon but with a longer barrel than most assault carbines; a weapon that required little cleaning and maintenance when employed in a dusty or sandy environment; a tough, durable gun that could stand up to the knocking around Alpine troops would give it; a lightweight weapon sturdier than the American M16 and, finally, a weapon in .223 caliber since other Western nations, principally the U.S., were changing to that caliber. The .223 functions well in automatic weapons, is a standard assault rifle cartridge and is economical — .223 ammo is significantly less expensive than 7.62.

The Austrians took a long, hard look at the British Bull Pup rifle but decided it did not meet all their specifications — so they commissioned Steyr-Mannlicher to produce one that did. The result, after seven years of research and development, is the AUG.

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Although the weapon is not only the Austrian army's shoulder gun but has been adopted by seven or eight northern African and Latin American nations, it has received little attention in the U.S.

Sighting In At SOF

So Karl Walter, Steyr-Mannlicher's U.S. representative, initiated correspondence with SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown that culminated in a visit by Walter to SOF's Boulder offices.

When Walter broke open the leather gun case containing the weapon, he soon attracted a sea of interested, puzzled faces.

For some reason, I was elected the person to learn how to assemble/disassemble and test-fire it. (Perhaps I was the right choice for the former task. My mechanical aptitude is so poor that the Marines made me take their Mechanical Aptitude Test twice, figuring that for some reason I

deliberately turned in what may have been the lowest MAT ever registered at Parris Island. Imagine their surprise when, under the watchful eyes of half a dozen sergeants, my second try scored even lower.)

But field-stripping the little AUG proved no challenge, even to me. Due to its push-pull, click-click characteristics, I learned how to strip it in 10 minutes. And if I can do that, anybody *can*.

Even so, I still didn't like the looks of the awkward-appearing piece with the 30-round magazine behind the pistol grip and trigger housing assembly and the folding front handguard.

I was *wrong*. Walter (*he, incidentally, is a colonel in the Austrian army reserve at age 33 — rank must come quick there*) said, "You will find that the safety is very accessible to the index finger and the magazine can be removed by the left hand alone while still holding the gun face toward the target."



Three versions of the AUG, from top: Sniper rifle with 24-inch barrel and 10 power scope; 20-inch barrel model with infrared night sight attached; 16-inch assault carbine version. Photo: Mannlicher

He also promised that I would find the weapon well-balanced and quick to line up *on target* because of the fixed optical sight which magnifies one-and-one-half times and features a black ring as a reticle. Just ring the target, or part of it, and shoot. It works too.

No Selector Switch

I was most skeptical of one of the features of which Col. Walter is most proud. This is the trigger, which has a pull of 6.6 pounds for single shot, but by yanking it four times that hard fires full auto, thus eliminating the necessity of a selector switch.

Out at the Boulder Rifle Club range, I found all that Walter said to be true.

The gun is well balanced and easy to fire with one hand. It drifts slightly to the right with a right-handed shooter because the gas piston is in an unorthodox position at an angle on the right side of the barrel. No problem really, especially if one braces it against his hip. The magazine can be slipped by the left hand, which is a nice feature because the shooter can drop a mag with only a few rounds left in it in favor of a full one, thus maintaining sustained fire.

The magazines themselves are of clear plastic — unbreakable and floatable. The shooter can tell when he is running low on ammo by glancing at the magazine.

And I don't think there is much of a problem with troops panicking and firing on full auto when selective fire is indicated. I found it difficult to squirt full auto without some practice.

“Jerk that trigger!”

Col. Walter kept shouting, “You've been trained as a marksman. Jerk that trigger, don't squeeze it!” (My old Parris Island rifle instructor would have felt a sharp pain somewhere in his anatomy.)

One other item, not so far as I know featured in other assault rifles, is the ease in convertibility to left-handed shooters by simply switching the bolt and dust

cover — an operation that requires only seconds.

The only negative factor (other than the fact that the AUG is not an M1 or an M14) I found is a red-hot barrel after a few short bursts on full auto. The shooter is OK so long as he clings to the fold-down handguard, but he or she better keep flesh away from that barrel at all costs. A good leather glove might be advisable for people who shoot this gun regularly.

Barrel lengths for the AUG are 16", 20" and 24", with the latter being the AUG's version of a sniper rifle. The Austrians use a 10-power Kahles ZF 69 sniper scope for the AUG pick-'em-off rifle. But just as the M16 will never by any stretch of the imagination be a real sniper rifle, neither will the AUG.

For sniper rifles, the Americans used Winchester Model 70s and Remington Model 700s in Vietnam, and the Austrians have a splendid one made by Steyr — the SSG, which comes in 7.62x51 (.308) caliber.

The AUG is not a cheap rifle, even in its mass-produced full-automatic mode. It costs out at about \$900. Steyr-Mannlicher is now planning production of a semi-automatic version. First the good news: Col. Walter says it will be fashioned so as to make it virtually impossible to convert to bootleg full auto. The BATmen will like that.

Now the bad news: It will cost in the neighborhood of \$1,500 with three magazines included. And that's a very exclusive neighborhood, even with a few free mags.

Other Impressions

Mainly because I'm the author of this piece, I have been permitted to ramble at length about what I think of the AUG. Let's hear what my colleagues who fired it have to say.

Nunn: "I was very impressed. It's far superior to the M16. I think its best features are the sighting system, the magazine-release system and the quick interchangeability of the barrel.

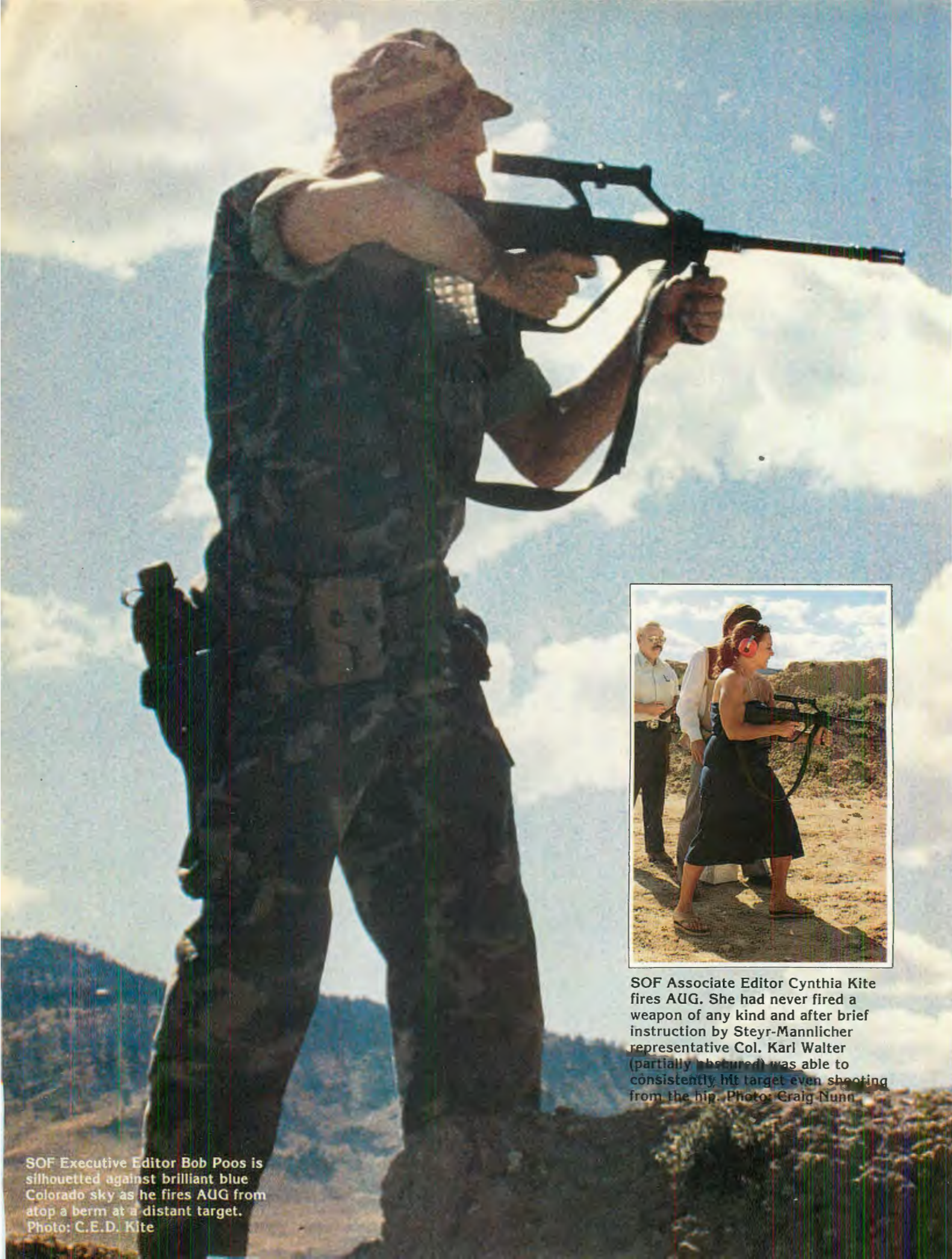
"It is nicely balanced and I like the idea of not having to throw a switch to get on full automatic."

Kite: "Well, of course, I'd never even held a gun before. But so far as I'm concerned, I found it light, easy — even for me — to handle. After I fired the first few rounds and learned that you're supposed to lean into it, the recoil didn't bother me at all. For someone with no experience, it was easy to learn how to shoot."

One more feature that I like about the gun is its plastic — superior to that used in the flimsy M16. I asked Walter about this and he said that he could not go into detail about its composition, that it apparently is a synthetic compound that is being kept secret by its manufacturer.



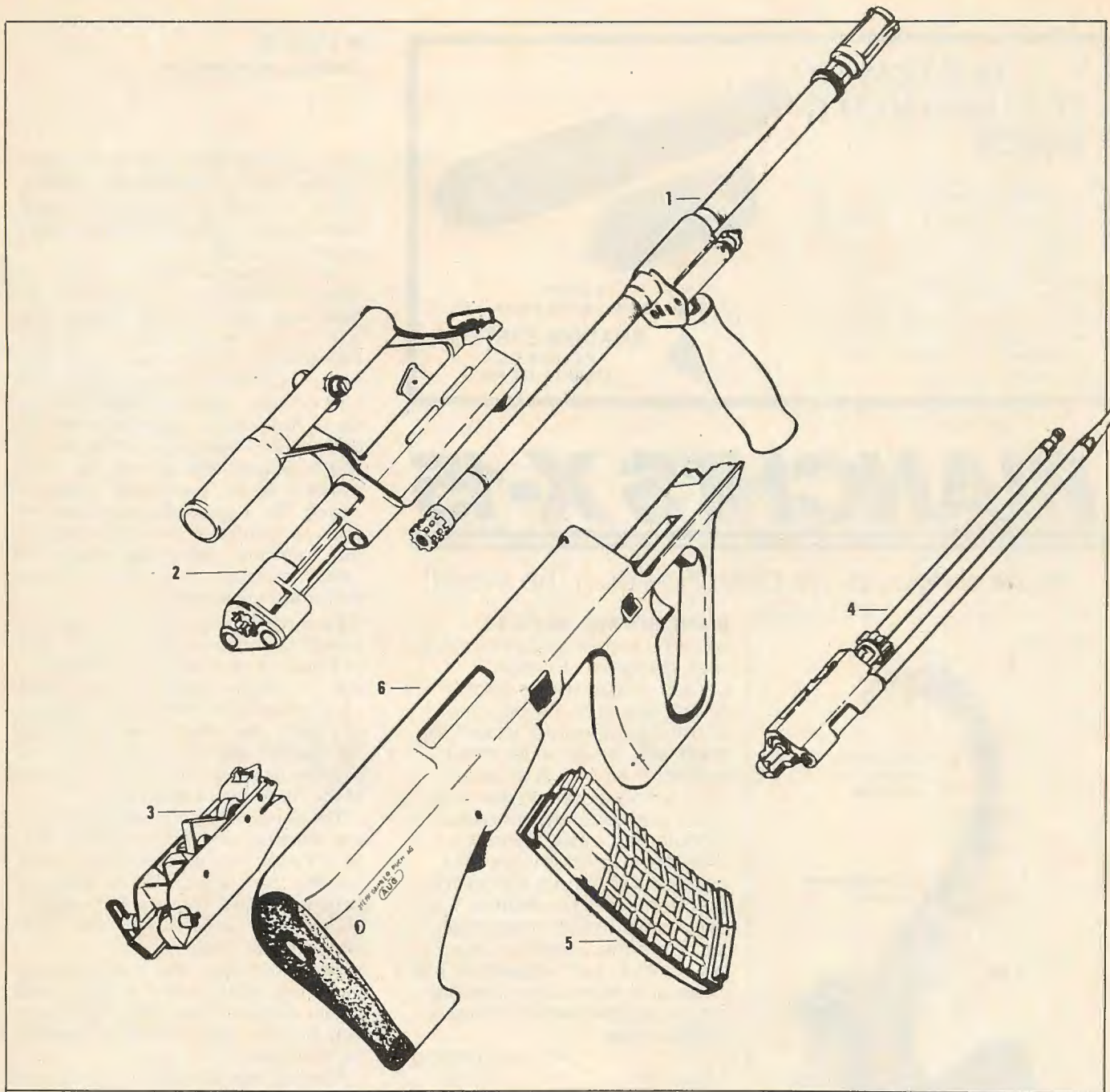
Steyr-Mannlicher's U.S. representative, Karl Walter, takes the barrel out of the AUG. Photo: C.F.D. Kite



SOF Executive Editor Bob Poos is silhouetted against brilliant blue Colorado sky as he fires AUG from atop a berm at a distant target. Photo: C.E.D. Kite



SOF Associate Editor Cynthia Kite fires AUG. She had never fired a weapon of any kind and after brief instruction by Steyr-Mannlicher representative Col. Karl Walter (partially obscured) was able to consistently hit target even shooting from the hip. Photo: Craig Nunn



1. Barrel Group, 2. Receiver Group, 3. Hammer Mechanism, 4. Bolt Group, 5. Magazine Group, 6. Stock Group

I still believe firmly (as I assume does Cooper) in these words written by Col. John W. Thomason in his splendid book, *Fix Bayonets*, about battle in WWI:

"The Boche [Germans] wanted Hill 142; he came, and the rifles broke him. Guns he could understand; he knew all about bombs and auto-rifles and machine guns and mortars. But aimed, sustained rifle fire that comes from nowhere in particular and picks off men — it brought the war home to the individual and demoralized him.

"And trained Americans fight best with rifles. Men get tired of carrying grenades and chaut-chaut [automatic rifle] clips . . . Machine-gun crews have a way of getting killed at the start; mortars and one-pounders [cannon] are not always avail-

able. But the rifle and bayonet goes anywhere a man can go and the rifle and the bayonet win battles."

I wish the thinkers and planners in the Pentagon could be forced to read that and commit it to memory and respond to it.

But until they do, I suggest they take a good close look at the AUG and at least think about adopting something that is really an assault carbine, rather than what they have now.



Steyr SSG sniper rifle as used by Austrian army with 10 power scope.



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IN REVIEW

Continued from page 24

ed, it would be there—defiant, immobile, a great citadel inviting German counter-attack and reprisal. Once Vercors was mobilized the invasion of southern France must be imminent.

The mobilization came six weeks too soon, and the Resistance was forced to defend itself against 20,000 German and Axis troops, a large portion of which were French Milice. Despite numerous pleas to Algiers and London, the plight of the Vercors defenders went unheeded. Gen. de Gaulle had made an uneasy deal with the communists, who were strong in the French underground: In return for representation in his provisional cabinet in Algiers, the communists had agreed to cooperate with the general in fighting their common enemy. But already the conflict had started over who was to rule France after the liberation.

So a site was selected for a force of French paratroops to drop in the middle of France. With a base in the Massif Central, de Gaulle would be well placed geographically to extend his influence throughout the country and insure that the Gaullists liberated as many towns as possible, or at least be close on the heels of the Allied troops which did.

The planes and paratroops allocated for this operation were the very ones promised to Vercors. For six weeks Vercors cried for help, but the pleas fell on deaf ears. London insisted Vercors was Algiers' responsibility and Algiers was commanded by de Gaulle.

The Vercors defenders were destroyed; those few who survived fled in small groups into forests and caves. Relief came only with the Allied capture of Grenoble on 22 August.

Pearson recounts all the action and drama of men at war, with special emphasis on the Vercors leaders and their innumerable problems. The most notable issue faced by the military leaders came from their attempt to assimilate different resistance groups into effective military organizations. Many of the maquis units (underground forces) elected their own leaders and did what they pleased; others were no better than criminal gangs.

Pearson has written a fine book, but he shows a glaring lack of scholarship by misidentifying almost every weapon mentioned in the text: "German 6.3 burp guns" (p. 83), "13.7mm machine guns" (p. 84), "WWI FM Model 1924/29" (p. 129), Junker 52 bombers" (p. 251).

Tears of Glory is exciting reading, but more importantly, it demonstrates what can happen to brave soldiers when their generals become politicians.

William Brooks is a frequent contributor to SOF's book-review pages. An

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CAMBODIA

Continued from page 59

then Nebraska, and finally Denver — also in 1975. All of my family is still in Cambodia, though I have heard that some relatives escaped into Thailand only to be marched back by the Thai border police. News is sketchy. I have little hope.

SOF: How did you escape?

CHEA: We were all gathered around the radio, listening to the accounts of communist soldiers invading the capital. I was scared, but I knew I had to remain calm in front of my brothers and sisters.

I was in charge of the local youth militia, and I remember running from house to house, trying to get my friends together so that we could fight for our homeland, but everybody was afraid to leave their parents and the safety of their homes.

One of my uncles learned of a convoy that was forming on our street, and we were soon packing our belongings and trying to talk our parents into coming with us to the border, but they would have no part of that. Cambodia was their home, and they would not leave.

I felt very bad leaving them, but the militia stood no chance against the many communist soldiers, and I knew I was young enough to begin a new life in another country.

It was very dark — all the lights in the city were out — when we joined the group of eight trucks heading for the roads into the jungle. I expected to be caught and killed that first night, but we had no problems.

I lost track of how many days we were in the jungle. I'm sure it was only two or three at the most, but there was constant rain, day and night, and the sky was always black, the sun hidden.

I knew we had reached Thailand when the people at a roadside market spoke a different language and the writing on the signs was different. The soldiers' uniforms also.

SOF: Were there any bribes involved in arranging your escape?

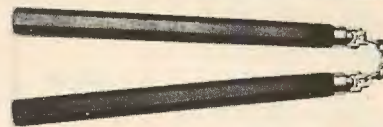
CHEA: The communists were not interested in money. Only shooting. They would always shoot at the young men.

CHAM: I remember the hunger most. We encountered a brief shoot-out as my group of neighbors began forming a vehicle convoy. I still don't know if

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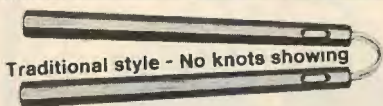


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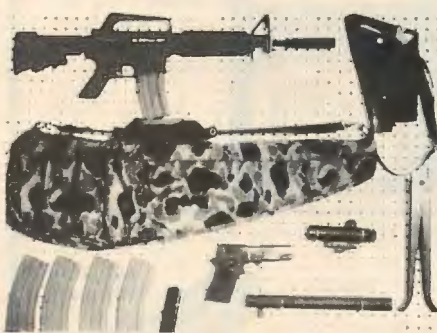
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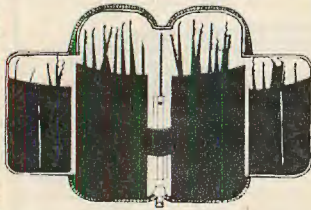
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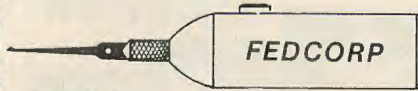
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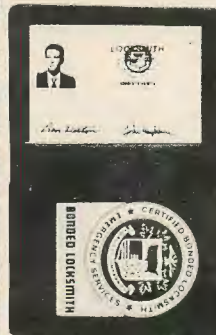
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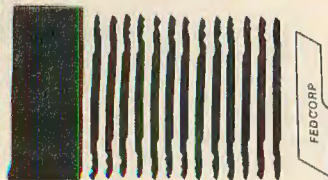


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our attackers were communists or our own soldiers. It was two or three snipers, really.

We all fled into the jungle on foot and they never chased us. We didn't go back to the vehicles, fearing a trap. For six days we went without food, as our provisions were back in the trucks. There was constant rain, and flooding up to our knees. Many civilian bodies floated past us, but finally we drank from the water — some of us. We didn't have much choice.

SOF: Were any of your group wounded during the escape?

CHAM: I saw one man fall at the trucks, and there was much screaming and confusion. As we scattered into the trees many became separated from their families and were not reunited.

We spent 12 days wandering through the jungle — 10 of them in Thailand. We encountered no shooting, but many fell victim to boobytraps, and with the climate and lack of medication, infection always set in quickly.

Many infants died the first week, and we had to abandon their bodies. There were brief ceremonies, of course, and I always remember asking my God to keep us safe, but every day someone died, disappeared or had to be left behind.

SOF: Did you encounter soldiers in the jungle?

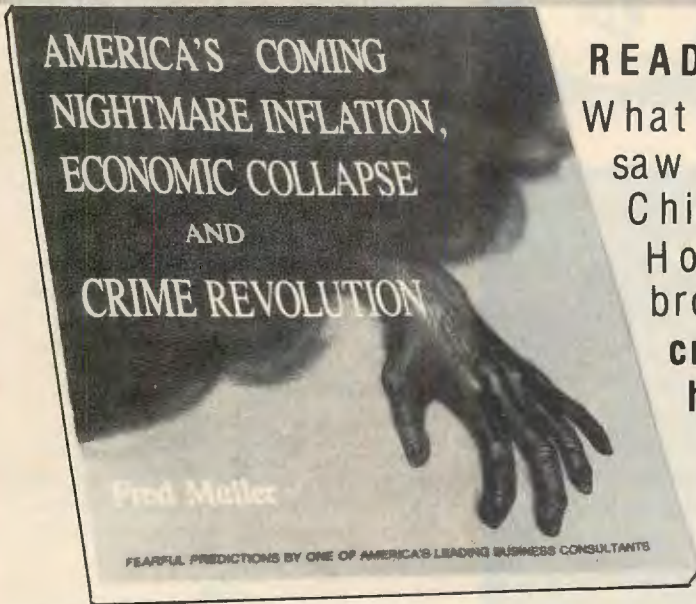
CHAM: When we heard footsteps crashing through the trees up ahead, we lay down in the water or the grass and hid until they passed. They never came very close. They wore soldiers' uniforms. Once we saw a Thai police patrol. Some of the men wanted to go to the police for help, but the rest of us were afraid they would march us back into Cambodia. At one point, a tiger stalked us for three days, but I guess it was only curious — not hungry.

CHEA: We had no serious problems during the trip, except for meeting stragglers on foot. Of course, they wanted rides, but we were already full up. It was very hard to drive by and leave them behind. Some could barely walk, and they always looked so sad. But we were sad too. We were all homeless and there was no going back. The memories still haunt me.

SOF: What happened after the American departure from Indochina?

CHEA: My people became very worried, of course. Fighting increased, and soon it was no longer only in the countryside. And then the news reports told there was no more hope for American bombers, and the ammo barges stopped coming up the rivers to the capital. **CHAM:** In 1970 I resigned from the police force — there were no more paychecks coming — and went to work teaching marksmanship to the new re-

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game's soldiers. The pay wasn't much better, but at least I had rations and shelter. Police work had been my whole life, so my attitude was rock-bottom during the final year. I hardly noticed or cared about political problems. Survival was the important thing. **SOF:** What were the final months like before your escape?

CHEA: There were neighbors — lifetime friends — who were suddenly gone. And others acting strange and scared.

CHAM: Nobody would gossip. They were afraid certain people might be agents of the Khmer Rouge, even though they had known them all their lives. Everyone viewed one another, even family members sometimes, with suspicion. New arrivals in town — strangers, even obvious refugees — were often chased away.

SOF: Did any high-ranking Cambodian officials turn out to be communists?

CHEA: No, not really. I expected that, but it was never confirmed to me.

CHAM: I believe those who did not escape converted easily to communist teachings. It would be easier than resisting. You must understand the land and the people. Both change. Time and politics can compete, but time will always outlast politics.



COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

Continued from page 12

you that the thing they suffered from most was embarrassment. I know one fellow who was practicing for the Cooper Assault and used the incorrect reholstering technique I described. He put a hardball slug right down the outside of his leg, a minor wound, but one that required medical treatment. Sore and embarrassed, he took a week's vacation so none of his buddies would notice his slight limp. He was almost completely recovered within a few weeks. He was able to shoot in the match but did not move quickly enough to place in his class. He now shoots with his finger in the proper position.

BEWARE of trigger shoes on a sidearm. They are wider than the trigger guard and thus stick out to the side and may catch on the holster if the pistol is seated in the leather without proper care. Trigger shoes mark a gunshop commando. If one needs a wider trigger surface, I recommend the King trigger boot, a shoe that fits over the trigger, but since it is not wider than the trigger guard, it will not cause problems. Equally important, the King trigger boot is pinned on the trigger and will not work loose like common trigger shoes.

Another alarming practice that I see occasionally is the method some shooters

use to reholster their pistol in a cross-draw holster. Many times the shooter places his free hand under the bottom of the holster to help reseal the pistol. If the holster has a tension device that holds the pistol in securely and soundly, the force needed to seat the pistol in the holster is often very strong. Using the free hand to hold the holster up, while shoving the pistol down, is very dangerous. Keep the hand — and all parts of the anatomy — away from the muzzle of the weapon. Keep alert. Don't let practice or training slide into bad habits.

We all wish to see practical shooting's fine safety record continue. Let's not allow foolish accidents to ruin the concept or ideals that practical pistol shooting has gone so far to achieve.



BULLETIN BOARD

Continued from page 6

NEW MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS ...

Two significant developments in the Middle East relative to American involvement are an agreement with Egypt for U.S. forces to hold maneuvers there and the dispatching of a mobile ground-radar station to Saudi Arabia.

The U.S. and Egypt agreed that the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force may conduct exercises in Egypt in 1981. Details of the proposed maneuvers were not clear, but would probably involve a force of some 2,000 men and their equipment being airlifted from the U.S. and being returned a few weeks later upon completion of the mission.

Dispatch of the mobile radar station — and the personnel to man it — was done during the Iraqi-Iranian war and, at the time, was aimed at bolstering Saudi air defenses and backing up the four, big, early-warning radar planes and 300 U.S. airmen sent earlier.

When, if ever, the men and equipment would be returned to the States was not known and sources said that would probably be up to the Saudis.

SUBSCRIBER SEEKS INFO ...

An SOF subscriber who is working on two books seeks reader help. Lee Richards of Dallas is working on *U.S. Special Forces 1960-Present* and *Navy-Marine Operations — The Battle for the Rivers of Vietnam*. Anyone with knowledge of or experience in these two fields may contact Lee at: 9911 Whitehurst No. 1216, Dallas, TX 75243 or phone (214) 349-8199. He is especially interested in unit heraldry and insignia, battle equipment and employment.

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WINN WANTS TO WIN ...

Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. David Winn has been named head of the Institute of American Relations' Air Force Task Force. He is a former chief of staff of the North American Air Defense Command and was a POW in North Vietnam for 55 months.

Winn has some alarming comparisons of U.S.-Russian air strength: strategic and tactical bombers, USSR, 975, U.S., 382; strategic defense missiles, USSR, 10,000, U.S., none; aerospace defense radar systems, USSR, 7,200, U.S., 134. Further, the Soviets have 822 percent more interceptor planes than we do, he says.

Gen. Winn's task force is a non-profit effort to spread this and other information and he seeks public assistance. He may be contacted through the Institute of American Relations, 927 15th St., Washington, D.C. 20005.

FARRAGUT LOWERS GUNS ...

The Navy says no disciplinary action will be taken against a destroyer captain who ordered sailors to fire more than 100 rifle rounds into a casket when it wouldn't sink during a burial at sea, but states that his commanding officer has "verbally counseled him."

A Navy board of inquiry found no violations of regulations, but said more appropriate means of sinking the casket, such as attaching weights to it, should have been examined.

The Navy said Cmdr. William Wunderly ordered six men to fire 103 rounds into the coffin after it slid from the Norfolk, Va.-based USS *Farragut* but failed to go under.

One unidentified crewman is quoted as saying, "The body was coming out of the casket when we left. It was gross."

The Navy generally uses GI metal coffins in burials at sea, but the one involved was wooden, provided by the veteran's family. The veteran was not identified.

The incident caused many crewmen to remove from their cars bumper stickers with the slogan "USS *Farragut* — Tidewater's Top Gun," a motto adopted several years ago because the ship consistently wins high marks in gunnery and missile practice.

FIREPOWER IN AMERICA ...

In January 1981 the Adventure Book Club will feature the long-awaited book, *Fire Power*, by Chris Dempster and Dave Tompkins.

Previously available only in England, the book covers with both words and pictures mercenary activities in Angola, and includes the inside story behind the infamous "Colonel" Callan's massacre of mercs.

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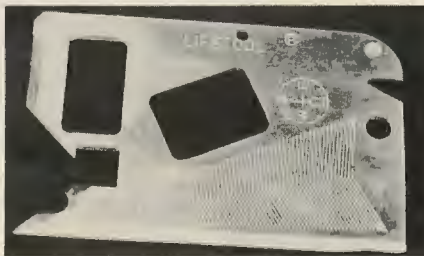
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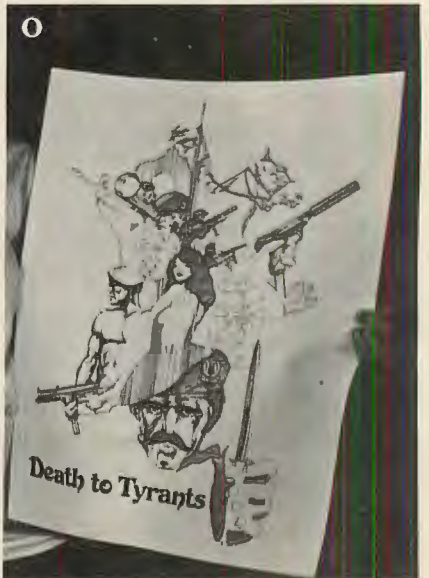
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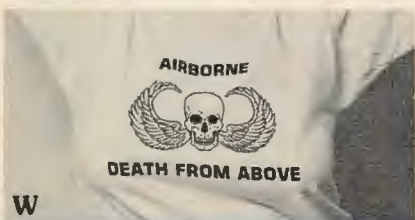
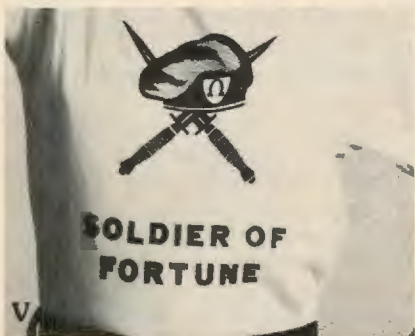
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As always, the Marines are looking for a few good men, but in this case it's for a few good men with proven ability as fliers.

Marines Corps Reserve jet pilots are being asked to return to active duty to serve as flight instructors at either Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla., or Corpus Christi, Tex.

The need, Marine Corps officials say, stems from an expected shortage of Marine flight instructors at those commands due to a planned increase in the number of Marines taking flight training in fiscal 1981.

For further information, interested personnel may contact Capt. Joe Hylan at (202) 694-2740, -3078 or -1986.

MARINE HISTORY AVAILABLE ...

If you were a Marine in Vietnam, you can now find out where you were and why you were there — or at least the official Marine Corps reason for it.

The information on all Marine operations in Vietnam is available in *The Marines In Vietnam 1954-1973; An Anthology and Annotated Bibliography*. It may be obtained for \$3.45 by writing to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 and specifying GPO No. 0855-00070.

The Marines also have a number of other general and unit histories ranging from *A History of Marine Corps Roles and Missions 1775-1962* to *The Battle of Khe Sahn*. A full list of available publications, including their modest prices, may be obtained by writing to History and Museums Division, Headquarters, United States Marine Corps, Washington, DC 20380, and asking for "Marine Corps Historical Publications In Print." It's free.

SEEKING AIRBORNE VETS ...

Les Jasper, a former first lieutenant FO with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam, is writing a book about the conflict and would like to hear from former members of the 101st, 82nd and 173rd. His book will concentrate on the vast differences in life at the rear as contrasted to that of the infantryman in the field. Jasper was in 'Nam in 1968 and would particularly like to hear from men who served there that year, but will be happy to get word from any former airborne trooper who was there at any time. He may be contacted by writing Les Jasper, P.O. Box 1135, Galesburg, IL 61401.

MARINE RECON TO REUNITE ...

Efforts are underway to form a First Force Reconnaissance Association with tentative plans for an initial re-

union of the elite Marine unit to be held at the beginning of this year.

Former members who served from its formation on 19 June 1957 until disbandment on 30 September 1974 and are interested in joining may contact Lt. Col. Patrick J. Ryan, USMC (Ret.), at 4688 Oregon St., San Diego, CA 92116.



FLAK

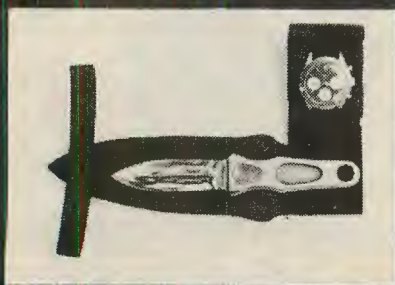
Continued from page 8

until after WWII. Why did we need the draft then and why do we want to return to it now?

Regardless of sophisms, the primary reason is that we have troops stationed all around the world. The United States has succeeded in becoming what Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt tried to make it — a great imperialistic empire. Ironically, even in this venture we have succeeded in becoming only third-rate imperialists, whose stature pales when compared to that great imperialistic power to the south: Cuba. And Cuba is dwarfed by perhaps the greatest imperialist force the world has ever known: the Soviet Union.

The solution to our military and defense problems is to end our imperialistic adventures and withdraw our troops from foreign soil. The savings from not having troops stationed in foreign countries plus those resulting from a concomitantly smaller army could be used to upgrade the pay and weapon systems of our armed services.

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The draft is not only unnecessary but immoral and unjust. The draft is simply a tax levied upon young men (and young women if ERA passes) equal to the difference between what they would be paid to volunteer and what they are paid as draftees. Why should only this class be required to bear such a heavy tax load?

The draft may ameliorate the problem of quality recruits, but so would a higher-paid, smaller army. The latter would probably cause an enlistment oversupply, thus allowing recruiters to pick and choose higher-quality recruits. The draft certainly will not solve the problem of the exodus of senior NCOs and specialists unless, of course, such people are drafted back into the armed services as soon as they leave. The solution to this problem begins with changing the pay scale — as Poos states.

I do not believe that a private in the infantry has to be paid the exorbitant salary implied by Poos. Rookie police officers are not. In peacetime, I believe that a police officer's job is more dangerous than that of most infantry privates. Wages do not depend on the intelligence required to do a job or the danger involved in doing it. They depend on the supply of workers available who are willing and capable to do the job.

Some final comments. First, the armed services are not the place for social experimentation — not even that of egalitarianism as suggested by Poos. I find this

somewhat amusing considering the hierarchical arrangement of the armed services. Second, our benevolent (should that be malevolent?) fathers in Washington have given our armed services the image of losers by not allowing them to win — since, well, come to think of it, the "invasions" of Arkansas in 1957 and Mississippi in 1962 — I don't believe our soldiers have been allowed to win in my lifetime. (Not too many people want to join with losers.)

The armed forces need to regain their image of being winners, which will be hard to do, considering the frequency with which they are betrayed by the political leaders of this country. Finally, the best, surest, safest and most economical way to stop and defeat Soviet imperialism is to stop selling them the rope which they are using to hang us. The Soviet war machine has been built and maintained by Western wealth and technology. Without Western assistance, socialism would have kept the Soviet Union a backward, militarily weak country.

Sincerely,
Thomas C. Allen
Raleigh, North Carolina

Bob Poos replies:

Thomas Allen writes a cogent, well-constructed letter and on some points I agree with him, but on most I don't.

I agree that Cuba and the Soviet Union are today's imperialistic powers and that

Russia may be the greatest one in history. However, I do not agree that stationing troops in Europe, Korea and Okinawa — about the only major concentrations today — constitutes a form of imperialism. Some might call it an effort to restrain imperialism.

Allen seems to long for the days of pre-WWII when the U.S. did indeed have a small, professional army. Even the hasty imposition of a peacetime draft, when it became obvious that America was going to get involved in that conflict, did not raise an army prepared to take the offensive for more than a year after Pearl Harbor. We very nearly lost that war before we were really into it. And come the next war, Mr. Allen, we will have far less time to prepare.

I did not suggest that a private in the infantry should be paid the same as people in hazardous civilian occupations. Quite the contrary. As far as a police officer's job being more dangerous than that of a combat infantryman, I suspect that Allen has not been in infantry combat. I suggest that he discuss it with someone who is both a police officer and has been an infantry fighting man.

I have very little argument with Allen's last paragraphs. Of course the armed forces should not be guinea pigs for social experimentation. And we all know that it wasn't the fault of the American fighting man that we settled for something slightly better than a tie in Korea and lost in Viet-

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nam. Those responsible for the outcome in both countries resided in Washington, D.C. — some of them in the White House.

GEOGRAPHY LESSON ...

Sirs:

As an NRA member, a charter member of the Second Amendment Foundation, an Air Force veteran, a member of the Nevada Army National Guard, a former resident of the late, not-so-great state of Massachusetts and an avid handgunner, I would like to comment on "Conversation Piece" (Bulletin Board, SOF, November '80).

Larry Braden made some rather gross, inaccurate generalizations. Calculus professors from New Jersey are not New Englanders nor are they at all representative of them. The majority of professors tend to be politically inclined to the left and align themselves with liberal causes — groups not geared toward possession of firearms.

Massachusetts is the only New England state that is anti-gun, and that is more a function of the liberal, Kennedy political power structure than the mandate of the people. Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont have realistic gun laws, do not prohibit possession of handguns and have extremely low crime rates. An automatic-weapons club in Maine acts as consultant for the Army National Guard.

New England history is steeped in the tradition of taking up arms to repel invaders. Hunting is a way of life in New England and many families supplement their food supply with venison each year. Please, Larry Braden, don't sell us short because of a couple of flakes. We're really nice people and staunch supporters of gun ownership.

Sincerely,
Ron Shaver
Reno, Nevada

CONVENTION GETS MEDIA OK ...

Sirs:

I would like to congratulate you on the thoroughly professional manner in which you conducted the convention. I must admit that I expected to meet a bunch of "crazies" running amok, but found instead many remarkable, thoughtful and articulate guys for whom I developed genuine respect.

I look forward to next year's convention.

Very truly yours,
Edward B. Kislinger
Filmways Pictures, Inc.
Beverly Hills, California

MERC ACTIVITY IN AFRICA ...

Sirs:

I have been a professional soldier in southeast Africa for over 30 years, and in

the course of my career I have known of almost all significant operatives in this region. Lately, I have taken on another profession — more complementary to my age now — as a free-lance journalist.

Of late there has been some activity in northwest Kenya and southern Uganda which centers around training operatives in the Lake Victoria region. These operatives appear to be directed by a group from Hong Kong. At least that seems to be the case.

During the summer of 1980, certain individuals of English and German backgrounds, two of whom carried Hong Kong travel documents, flew into the area. Activities appear to be simply training in nature. However, personnel appear to be heading south to an undisclosed region which I personally believe to be Mozambique.

I have been almost entirely unsuccessful in determining any other identification of this group, since there has been considerable secrecy and security. Locations vary and I assume the group has well coordinated direction either from Hong Kong or elsewhere.

Since I am still endeavoring to write and investigate this organization, any help or information you can provide would be very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,
Michael Smith
c/o The Standard Newspaper
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Any reader who has information can get in touch with Mr. Smith at the above address.—The Eds.

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Sirs:

We were happy to see your advertisement on the back cover of the December '80 SOF. Now we have a place to which we can direct funds. Dr. Eden Naby, who went with Dan Rather and CBS to Jalalabad for the program "60 Minutes" last March, is the leading person behind our organization, composed of Afghans as well as Americans and others, so any contacts can be sent to the below address or to Dr. Naby.

At our last meeting, three copies of *Soldier of Fortune* were passed around to show that at least one organization has the guts to speak out about direct aid to the Afghans. Washington is hopeless and the refugee organizations, for the most part, spend more money on receptions in New York City or on Pakistani sticky fingers than one can even suspect. Maybe someone will finally listen and aid the people who are fighting for us.

Sincerely yours,
Richard N. Frye
Free Afghanistan
P.O. Box 412
Boston, MA 02112

Continued on page 83-

SELLERS

Continued from page 29

I will leave it for those who study the workings of the mind to determine how much of these jackals' devotion to their trade is rooted in the profit motive, and how much in what might be termed job satisfaction. But any way you look at it, it must be a hell of a way to make a living.

I would like to mention a few points to bear in mind:

1. An employer may require you to obtain your passport, visa and immunization at your own expense. But don't send money to anyone except those who dispense these services. As for processing or documentation fees, any company capable of obtaining a contract with a corporation or government will be able to pay for its personnel operations without any help from you.

2. In a face-to-face situation, find out at once who the person you are talking to is supposed to be representing. If you have any doubts, check out what he has to say. If he's on the level, he won't be offended.


3. Answer any mention of earnest money with a quick exit. Any offer to lower the amount just for you is an indication that the person you are talking to probably received his basic training as a con artist in the vanity publishing or recording industry.

4. Anyone who assures you he can find you something somewhere will find you nothing anywhere. The only reason anyone is going to hire a United States citizen to do anything is because this country contains more people with desired skills at the best price, or because he is required by law or by the terms of his contract to do so.

So what does a person do? Agree that it's a jungle out there and give up? Not necessarily.

In a city of any size the libraries have telephone books and the newsstands newspapers from major U.S. cities and sometimes foreign ones. A person can clip classified ads for overseas positions that look legitimate and make a list of corporations with overseas operations. He can send out resumes that he composes himself and make phone calls. If he is young enough, he can try to decide what skills will be in demand in foreign operations in two or three or five years, and set out to get them.

This approach will have none of the allure of the scams — no maps and travel posters on the wall, no genial man anxious to help you get away from debt or romantic problems, or doing meaningless work with a bunch of jerks who have found their rut and are overjoyed with it.

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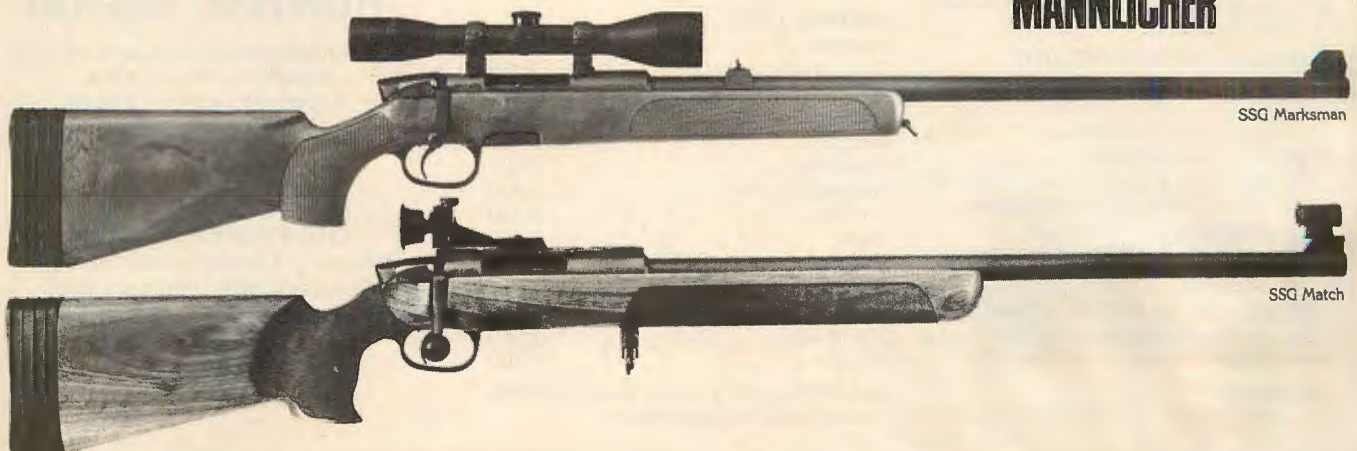
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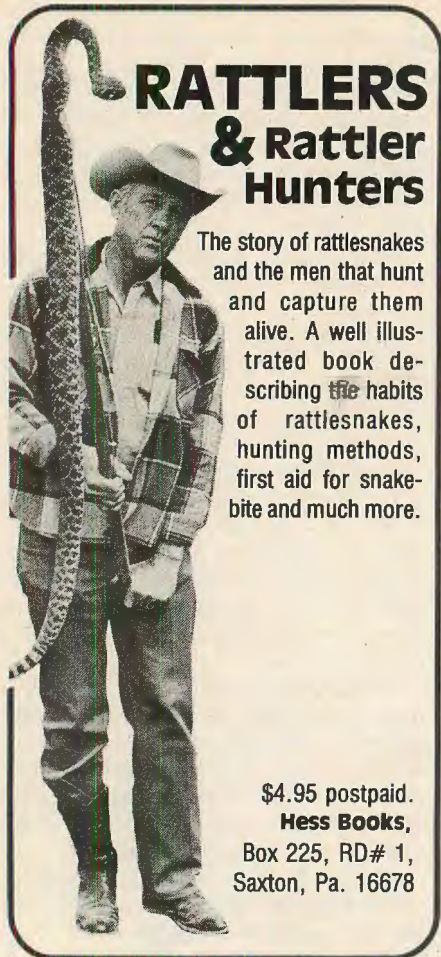


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IT HAPPENED Continued from page 18

been quiet for several days and they needed excitement — with the predictable results, although it cost us a night on the perimeter awaiting an attack.

As a result of the "simulated attack," one adviser received an award for bravery. He saved a drowning REMF who could not hold his liquor. The REMF was loaded with weapons and ammo and fell into the water-holding tank (swimming pool). We did not tell our REMF counterparts of our proof-positive test with the simulator, but we did let a few of the real soldiers know, and of course we had a good laugh at the REMFs' expense.

If you have a combat or adventure story for "It Happened to Me" or "I Was There," triple-space type it and send it to SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306, Att: M.L. Jones. All stories should be 500 words or less. Upon publication, SOF will become owner of all publication rights. Submitted articles are subject to editing and revision, although their content and theme will not be changed. Photos (with captions and credits) are also helpful. Captions should be typed on a separate sheet of paper and keyed to each

photograph. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope so we can notify you of acceptance or return of your story. Article payment is \$50, upon publication. All entrants will receive an SOF patch.



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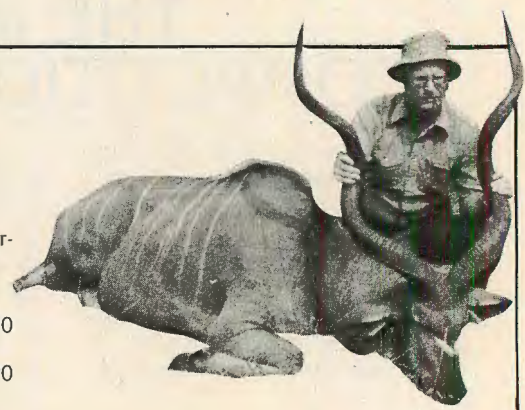
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HANOI

Continued from page 54

The Thai troops along the border north and south of Aranyaprathet were well equipped, seemingly professional and obviously vigilant. Their surprisingly good performance last June during the two days of heavy border fighting triggered by Vietnamese attacks provided an obvious boost to morale.

An airborne-qualified infantry major whose unit was dug in south of Aranyaprathet no doubt reflected the esprit of many younger officers when he insisted, repeatedly, that "the Vietnamese will never pass my battalion."

Thai Troop Deployment

To cover the vulnerable Wathana Gap, the Thai army had deployed an infantry division, one armored regiment, an independent infantry regiment and several artillery battalions. A single regiment of Thai marines had been assigned the long stretch of border running along the foothills of the Cardamoms to the Gulf of Siam.

As of mid-October, the Vietnamese had concentrated elements of at least seven, and perhaps as many as 10, divisions in western Cambodia.

If events went beyond the forces deployed by both sides along the border, the Thais would be no less disadvantaged. Thailand's largely untested armed forces total only 220,000 on active duty. The Vietnamese, who have been fighting continually for nearly 40 years, mobilized after the 1979 border war with China and now maintain one million men under arms.

A False Note

On my last night along the border, I sat in the Aran Cafe sipping a beer and trying to unwind. Graceful Thai couples were dancing sedately to the music of a local band. The contrast was overwhelming. A few kilometers away, young Cambodians were pulling outpost duty in the rain.

I wondered how much longer the music would last in Aranyaprathet.



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FLAK
Continued from page 79

JUSTICE FOR ALL . . .

It was with a sense of justice well done that I read of Robin Moore's removal from the SOF convention. I fought, ate and lived with too many blacks in Rhodesia to accept the blatant racism of this man.

It was the consensus of opinion that his position in the scheme of things was one of bloated self-importance and that probably his only motivations were racism and crass economic exploitation of a gravely unjust situation in Rhodesia. Moore was present there, I suspect, far less than he would like for us to believe and his contribution was far less than he would like to believe. When he was there, holding his informal but structured get-togethers, one felt a ghoulish presence, much like coming across hyenas feeding on an old carcass in the bush. He stripped the flesh from the bones of our experiences, strictly for financial gain. Moore gave nothing but lip service and hamburgers to those of us involved in a struggle of conscience — and beer only to loosen tongues.

Respectfully,
Name Withheld

MEDICAL QUERIES . . .

Sirs:

As a medical student, Army Reserve officer and Vietnam vet who will soon be back on active duty (hopefully with an elite combat unit), I'm concerned that Washington, D.C., is wasting valuable time denying the obvious — the communist use of poison and knockout gasses, chemical warfare, poisoned/hollowpoint small-arms ammo, etc., on their enemies — and is not training military physicians to treat these types of casualties. Any info you can steer me to concerning exactly what chemicals the communists are using and what treatments are proving most effective would be immensely appreciated.

Sincerely,
James R. Uhl
Kansas City, Missouri

You might check "Mysterious Wounds" (SOF, September '80). Any hints other readers might have we'll pass on to Mr. Uhl.—The Eds.

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for the Smith & Wesson brand of CN (chloroacetophenone). It is considerably less effective but more toxic than CS (orthochlorobenzalmalononitrile). There is large variance in knock-down power within CS weapons.

The most popular CS spray (Paralyzer) is a five-percent powdered irritant suspended in an inert oil base. When sprayed, it takes time for the active ingredient to make its way past the oils on the face which serve as a shield. The inert base adds significantly to the problem. Also, oil doesn't evaporate, so the only respiratory irritation is from inhalation of aerosol droplets. Since the spray emerges as a stream there are not many droplets. It is possible to sustain a direct hit of oil-based CS and wipe it off before it can take effect.

A better weapon is one-percent liquid CS in an acetone base (marketed as Chemical Shield). The acetone acts as a solvent, dissolving facial oils, and then evaporates quickly to form an extremely vicious cloud of vapor which causes involuntary choking, sudden sinus drainage and phlegm formation, in addition to the classical CS effects of intense pain and forced eye closure. An active attacker would actually collapse faster than a non-moving one because his additional oxygen demand could not be met due to breathing difficulty. In either case, an assailant would be helpless within one second after being sprayed and remain tractable for at least 10 minutes. Despite the dramatic effects, this brand of weapon is sold in 47 states and, like CS irritants, has never caused permanent damage.

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DOWN
Continued from page 35

together: amberjacks, a yard long, no threat.

Souvenir Hunters

We drifted along the foredeck, gazing somberly at the ghostly network of beams. Some time ago, U.S. Navy divers tore the deck plates away to remove the torpedoes. A lot of civilian divers are long on balls and short on brains and like to carry away nifty souvenirs, like the fuse of a real honest-to-goodness Nazi torpedo — just tap it with a hammer to loosen it and it'll be a cinch . . . The result would jiggle seismographs along half the East Coast. There were also reports that divers were carrying away skulls to make ashtrays, which did not amuse the West German

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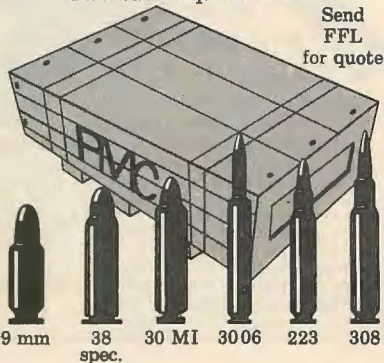


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government. The bones were also removed — most of them anyway.

Nazi Aquarium

The 352 will not be around forever. She is slowly disintegrating, disappearing under an incrustation of barnacles and the nondescript growth that accumulates on anything solid. I floated face-down onto the deck and peered inside. Fish live in her now, lots of them; many of them tropicals that figured she was a new kind of reef. They were strangely drab in the monotone light. Colors fade in the depths, turning to chalky off-white and then to grey. A big queen angel swam up to look at me, its blue areas gleaming but its yellows muted. It glowered at me with cold disinterest, then turned sideways, almost vanishing.

As we finned past the bow I glanced at my pressure gauge, which registered 2,100 pounds of the 3,000 I'd started with. Plenty of time left. Maggie was trying to photograph a big grey angel which had had part of his back removed by a barracuda. Either the 'cuda had taken a mouthful and been satisfied, or the angel had managed to duck inside the wreck before it was time for seconds. We settled to the sand, 115 feet deep exactly on the starboard side, and stalked the fish on hands and knees. Big sea cucumbers were slowly crawling on the diving planes like case-hardened caterpillars.

Forgotten History

For some reason my mask was beginning to leak. The sub loomed over us and the amberjacks trailed alongside us in a twilight rumbling with bubbles. For a moment I lay on the sand and looked through the U-boat's ribs at a big 'jack hanging inside — a spooky sight. The workers who built this crate would be in their 60s now, and there's a generation alive today who don't even know what the U-boat war was — who barely know what Vietnam was about. Things pass.

The stern was low to the sand, propeller missing. Another member of our party, Dave Bluett, had raised it a year before, working for days with heavy tools. Salvage below a hundred feet is no job for novices. You need a lot of working time on the bottom, which throws you into decompression schedules and necessitates long, boring hangs at 10 and 20 feet. Even twin tanks don't carry enough air to use an air chisel, so you use pony tanks and maybe have somebody bring down full tanks in relays. The chisel sounds like a jackhammer underwater and uses a lot of air. Then, finally having cut the prize loose, you tie it to a lift bag, fill the bag with air and hope it gets to the surface. There's always the happy possibility that

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Sterling Prices Subject
To Change

you'll get the goody almost loose, and then some other diver will take it the next day. Scavenging is a dog-eat-dog racket.

I went back to the conning tower, motioning Maggie with me in the wild hope of finding something of interest inside. She came. Some divers believe in the "same-ocean" buddy system, meaning that everything's fine if you are within 10 feet of your buddy, or think you know where he probably is — or have his address so you can send him a postcard in an emergency. A word that frequently describes these people is "dead." At depth you ought to be able to touch your buddy.

By the time we got to the hatch my mask was leaking steadily, a thin stream of water obscuring the faceplate. I kept clearing it. We checked inside the hatch and found nothing. The 'jacks circled in slow motion.

My gauge said 1,000 pounds — time to finish up. We swam over to the anchor, jammed in the forward ribs and prepared to pull it free. The idea was to attach a lift bag and float it to the surface. If we had simply dropped it on the sand the pull of the boat would have dug it in and left us where we started.

By this time most of the Atlantic Ocean had migrated into my mask, forcing me to hold it tight against my face with one hand to seal it. A one-armed diver who can't see is as useless as tits on a tomcat, so Maggie dragged the anchor out, tied on the lift bag and filled it from her octopus. So far, so good.

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Author aboard Coral Sea making last-minute equipment check before dive.

Killer Mask

Then the trouble began. My mask was flooding completely, more a hazard now than an inconvenience. Salt water had finally gotten in my eyes — an event I had been carefully avoiding for 10 minutes — and it burned like hell. Some people think there's water in the ocean, but divers know it's a sea of chili sauce.

Meanwhile, the anchor was floating up with Maggie hanging on to it, unaware that I was being assassinated by my mask. I turned in circles, looking for her, then peered overhead — that usually being where buddies are when they aren't anywhere else. Because sea water had corroded my eyeballs I couldn't see her, so I spun again. All of these acrobatics must have amazed her. Great, I thought. I'm a hundred feet underwater, my mask wants to drown me and something seems to have eaten Maggie — probably a killer whale; probably a whole school of killer whales, all poised six inches from the nape of my neck, and I can't see a thing because of this frigging rubber death-trap. Outstanding.

Underwater Ballet

As it happened she was 10 feet above me, watching me spin and wondering whether I was training to be some kind of dancer. She finally got my attention by banging on her tanks with a knife. I hit my auto-inflator and started up. Five hundred pounds of air left. The U-boat faded into the sea, became a vague shadow and disappeared. She'd spend 15 or 20,000 more days and nights on the bottom, being slowly circled by generations of amberjacks, before she rusted away. We rose into the glowing bright water near the surface, found the barracudas still hanging in the Great Blue Swimming Pool, decompressed a few minutes at 10 feet to be on the safe side, then broke the surface.



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John Shaw Top Gun In

Text & Photos by Jake Jatras



JUST a few miles from the spot where the historic confrontation between George Washington and Lord Cornwallis took place 200 years ago, another historic confrontation occurred last October. Nearly 200 of the top handgunners in the country gathered to decide who would be the 1980 International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) U.S. Region Champion.

The course of fire in this year's tournament was probably the most difficult ever to confront entrants in a U.S. Championship. It was designed by Jeff Cooper, using a semi-surprise format, and consisted of five stages and a shoot-off among the top 16 pistoleros.

Basic Exercises

Stage I: The "Basic Exercises" course. This stage included close and quick shooting and some distance firing out to 50 meters. Short wall barricades were placed at the longer distances, forcing

competitors to shoot from the standing position.

Last year's top pistolero, Mickey Fowler, walks between tunnel and "Rhodesian wall" during "Scramble" stage.

competitors to shoot from the standing position.

The barricades seemed to hamper those entrants more accustomed to firing at such ranges from the prone position. Last year's top gun, Mickey Fowler, won this stage with his superb off-hand shooting ability.

Speed Match

Stage II: The "Speed Match." This course certainly lived up to its name. Each shooter had to face three targets — one directly in front at five yards, and two placed at 180 degrees, one to the left and one to the right at five yards. Starting position was hands up, and at the start signal the contestant had to draw and

place one round in the head of each target. Time limit, two seconds.

Unfortunately, the problem was unsolvable for most competitors. The time limit proved a stumbling block for even the best shooter, and many opted to go for just two of the targets, fearing a penalty for an overtime shot. Winner in Stage II was 1978 U.S. IPSC Champion Ross Seyfried.

Scramble

Stage III: The "Scramble" course. This assault course had some unique features, including a "crawl tunnel" one meter off the ground and one meter square. The tunnel had two firing ports one-half meter square.

The course also utilized a "climbing wall" two meters high and a "Rhodesian wall" 2½ meters high. At the end of the course a dual moving target waited for the shooters — but not for long. Each shooter

U.S. NATIONAL IPSC MATCH



Mike Dalton fires off "Rhodesian wall." Shooters had option of using rope or not. Dalton came in sixth in this year's contest.

had 30 seconds to make it to the mover and engage it. Many did not make it.

Firing from the crawl tunnel proved challenging, as did simply getting into and out of the unusual obstacle. The course was mastered by Massachusetts speedster Tom Campbell, using his famous Smith & Wesson 9mm "Supergun."

Reach

Stage IV: The "Reach" match. This stage was strictly a long-range shooting proposition and exasperated many participants, who all year long had concentrated practice on shorter-range targets.

This match used a novel two-meter-high wall with a one-half meter square, shuttered window in the center. The shutter



could be opened by pulling a cord and holding it while shooting out of the window. Shooters tried every method possible to accomplish this, some even holding the cord between their teeth.

John Shaw displayed his prowess at long-range handgunning and came out on top for this stage of action.

Jungle Lane

Stage V: The "Jungle Lane." The "lane" used the new, metal "Pepper Popper" targets. In order to score, the metal foes had to be knocked down. The targets fell easily to good hits, but low strikes or edges would not do the job. Prior to the match, Jeff Cooper calibrated the targets, using a 9mm Heckler & Koch PSP.

The match itself consisted of a series of separate encounters up a narrow trail. Time was the important factor in this course. Each shooter had the opportunity to walk the course before going for

1980 U.S. Champion John Shaw, on left, and last year's top gun Mickey Fowler take off during man-vs-man shoot-off. Shooters, on start signal (flood light coming on), had to run to table, knock can off with shooting hand, engage metal targets, reload and hit timer plate.

record, and John Shaw flew through the lane to take top honors.

The Shoot-Off

Climaxing the five-day championships was the 16-man shoot-off. A J-ladder system, adapted for the match by Andy Langley of Missouri, was used to pair up the shooters.

The course of fire was a modified "Flying M," using the "Popper" targets and an impact plate. Knocking the impact plate off a stand stopped an electronic



Mike Plaxco, in dark shirt, and Ross Seyfried in final bout of shoot-off. Seyfried won bout and shoot-off to place second in this year's IPSC Nationals.



Ross Seyfried of Colorado fires in shoot-off. Seyfried was 1978 IPSC United States Champion and won man-vs-man portion of this year's contest.



Mickey Fowler, in checked shirt, and Tom Campbell fire in shoot-off.

timer specially designed for the showdown by Bob Swain of Virginia. Times as close as five hundredths of a second were considered a draw.

Rivals stood at the ready until a flood light came on, signaling the beginning of the bout. Then they dashed to a table and knocked off a can with their shooting hand prior to engaging the metal target.

Once all the targets were knocked down, the shooter had to reload and hit the timer plate off its stand. There were quite a few close calls, and the electronic gear proved invaluable in choosing the winners of each round.

Man-versus-man competition has always been a significant segment of IPSC competition. The stress factor in such matches is high, particularly when the bouts are between the top guns in the land.

The Shoot-offs

The initial bout found two shooters from Arkansas facing off: Mike Plaxco and Bill Wilson. The match was exciting and set the pace for the rest of the rounds. Plaxco won and went on to the finals.

As the shooters settled down, their times began to drop, and Californian IPSC veteran Mickey Fowler got under six seconds to set the record and then broke it again.

One of the most stimulating struggles of the day came when Fowler faced off with fellow Californian Nick Pruitt. The crowd could sense it was going to be a real scuffle — and they were right. Both men pushed themselves a little harder each time, but Fowler remained steady and won the bout. Pruitt set the record at 5.35 seconds. At the conclusion of their contest the audience gave both shooters a well deserved round of applause and cheers.

Tom Campbell had to concentrate on getting good hits with his 9mm to insure

that the targets would go down, and his accurate fire got him into the finals.

Ross Seyfried of Colorado remained calm and assured during the shoot-off. Seyfried is at his best during this type of contest and performed as steadily as ever. In the final bout he faced Mike Plaxco and quickly took command. When the smoke cleared, Seyfried had won the shoot-off.

The New Champion

It has been quite a year for John Shaw. He began by winning the Midwest Practical Pistol Championships in Arkansas, then came in sixth at the Bianchi Cup. Shaw did well at the Second Chance saturday and took second at the first *Soldier of Fortune* three-gun match.

Shaw instructs police in the art of combat shooting in West Memphis, Tenn., and is a true master with both revolver and automatic. He now reigns as the 1980 IPSC U.S. Region Champion. His overall score of 557.00 in this formidable match is proof of his versatility. Congratulations.

Ross Seyfried was second with a score of 528.73, Tom Campbell third with 517.10, Mickey Fowler fourth with 513.43 and Ray Neal fifth with 458.87.

The next five were: Mike Dalton — 456.60, Mike Fichman — 446.82, Bill Wilson — 435.42, Nick Pruitt — 432.55 and Dave Stanford — 426.97.

Special awards went to Heidi Lippmeyer for Top Lady, Dave Stanford for Top Cop, and High Revolver went to Kent Williams.

This year's national competition was hosted by the Lafayette Gun Club and the Lafayette Combat Pistol Team. Match Officers Ed Self, Stan Pace and Bill Walsh did an outstanding job of administering the contest. The range officers were well trained and kept things running smoothly. Next year the U.S. Nationals

will also be held in Virginia. I and all the IPSC shooters in the country look forward to another great match in 1981.

JEFF COOPER STEPS DOWN

It was a historic moment for IPSC when Jeff Cooper stepped down this year as the United States IPSC Region Director. For the first time IPSC in the United States will be under new leadership.

At the awards banquet, Ross Seyfried paid tribute to Cooper and all of the accomplishments he has made as IPSC's founding father. Cooper has been the motivating force behind the organization and the leader in promoting the use of the handgun in the manner it was designed for.

Cooper will continue to serve IPSC in the United States and the world as an adviser. His guiding hand and knowledgeable input are invaluable to the growth of this dynamic activity. Cooper has set a high standard for himself and for the shooters in the world.

The new IPSC U.S. Region Director is Jake Jatras. He is the editor of *Combat Shooters Report*, a publication for combat shooters, and president of the Iowa Practical Shooting Club. Jatras may be reached by writing: Jake Jatras, IPSC U.S. Region Director, P.O. Box 626, Sioux City, IA 51102.

—J.J.

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| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| 1. Clint Henderson | 350.35 |
| 2. Bill Rogers | 331.54 |
| 3. Kent Williams | 325.21 |
| 4. Ron Samuels | 313.04 |
| 5. Lanny Provience | 294.22 |

- 6. R.J. Woodford 285.25
- 7. Jim Grumbles 280.07
- 8. Terry Heffington 280.07
- 9. Randy Tallent 278.27
- 10. J.R. Bibbee 271.19

THE TOP 25

- 1. John Shaw 557.00
- 2. Ross Seyfried 528.73
- 3. Tom Campbell 517.10
- 4. Mickey Fowler 513.43
- 5. Ray Neal 458.87
- 6. Mike Dalton 456.60
- 7. Mike Fichman 446.82
- 8. Bill Wilson 435.42
- 9. Nick Pruitt 432.55
- 10. Dave Stanford 426.97
- 11. Mike Plaxco 423.55
- 12. Steve Duffy 407.19
- 13. Roger Burgess 399.63
- 14. Dave Scott 397.22
- 15. George Lorrison 377.43
- 16. Larry Larson 374.94
- 17. Ken Hackathorn 354.41
- 18. Lloyd Harper 352.17
- 19. Cliff Fisher 351.62
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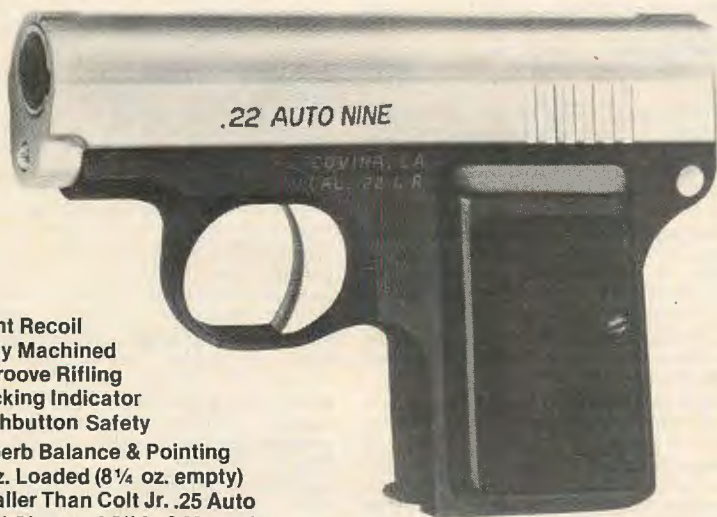
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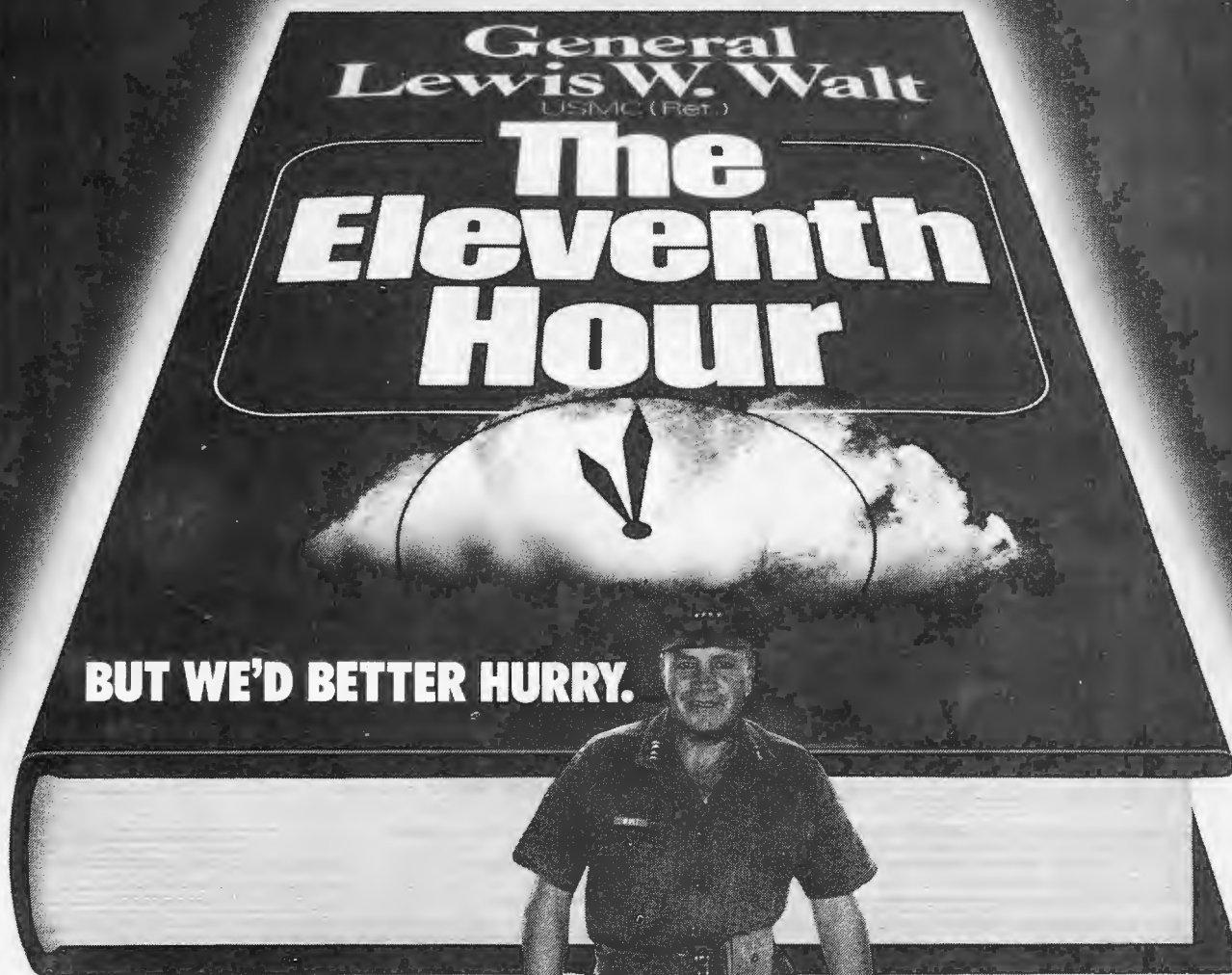
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